

Machinists vote down contract at Northwest

BY MARY MARTIN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a record voter turnout some 85 percent of the 27,000 members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) who work at Northwest Airlines voted July 29 on the company's contract offer and rejected it with between 66 percent and 84 percent opposed in the four main work groups organized by the IAM.

These four groups — representing mechanics, cleaners, custodians, ramp workers, stock clerks, and passenger service workers — also voted to authorize a strike against the company, if necessary, by 18,835 to 3,303. A fifth work group representing 140 Flight Kitchen personnel voted the contract up by 34 to 20. In a press release issued after the vote was

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Militant/Mark Friedman

Workers walk informational picket line at Northwest Airlines in Los Angeles May 22

Cuban president Fidel Castro gets enthusiastic welcome in Grenada

BY BRIAN TAYLOR

"Fidel, Fidel!" roared an enthusiastic crowd when Cuban president Fidel Castro Ruz arrived in Grenada August 2 on the last stop of a week-long tour through the English-speaking Caribbean. The revolutionary leader's visit to Grenada, Barbados, and Jamaica registered the weakening of Washington's decades-long efforts to seal off Cuba from the other nations in the region. Just 15 years ago, U.S. forces invaded Grenada, occupied the island for 18 months, and installed a government subservient to Washington.

Castro's first stop was Jamaica. "We are implacably opposed to the economic block-

ade of Cuba, which is morally wrong," declared Jamaican prime minister P.J. Patterson at a rally in Montego Bay. Castro was presented with keys to the city. A number of Jamaican hotel chains have set up facilities in Cuba recently, and trade is expected to deepen. While visiting Barbados, the Cuban leader spoke at a ceremony marking the abolition of chattel slavery in the 1830s. The Barbados government also unveiled a memorial to the 73 passengers, most of them Cuban, who were killed in a terrorist bombing of a Cuban airliner in 1976. The Cuban government faults counterrevolutionaries in the United States for the deaths.

Ever since working people in Cuba took

power in 1959, Washington has pressured Caribbean governments to break off ties with Havana. Lázaro Cárdenas, Cuba's ambassador to the eastern Caribbean, commented that today "no one can speak of the Caribbean without including Cuba." Trade between Cuba and its neighbors has jumped from \$6 million 10 years ago to \$65 million in 1997. The Clinton administration has threatened to sanction Caribbean nations for trading with Cuba. But ever-declining U.S. investment in the region — from \$226 million a decade ago to \$24 million today — means such threats have less impact.

The Cuban government, with the approval

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Belgrade's offensive mounts in Kosova

NATO renews intervention threats

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

In the largest military offensive so far against Albanians fighting for independence in Kosova, Belgrade's army and special police forces have driven tens of thousands out of their homes and into the mountains and set ablaze scores of villages to prevent peasants and other Albanians from returning.

"The offensive has been going on for more than two weeks and has not stopped, despite claims to the contrary by the authorities," said Lulëson Jagxhiu, a leader of the Independent Students Union, in a telephone interview from Pristina, Kosova's capital, on August 6. "We are faced with full-scale war. More than 300,000 Albanians have been forced to flee their homes from shelling. A very big number are hiding in the hills and mountains. They lack food and shelter. This could develop into a humanitarian disaster as the cold weather of the fall and winter approaches."

More than 500 Albanian civilians have been killed in the five-month-old Serbian government assault, according to the Kosova Information Center. The latest offensive began July 24, ostensibly to beat back the forces of the Kosova Liberation Army (UCK) that had taken control of one-third

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Bell Atlantic workers prepare for strike

BY WENDY LYONS

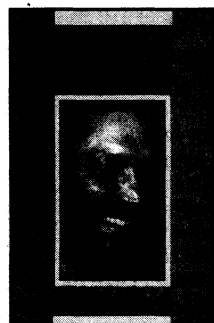
NEW YORK — Members of the Communications Workers of America (CWA) across the northeastern part of the United States are getting ready for a possible strike when their contract with Bell Atlantic expires August 8. The telephone carrier employs 73,000 CAW members in 13 states and the District of Columbia.

Here in New York, many workers at the Bell Atlantic facility in Jamaica, Queens, said the main issues at stake are the company's intent to contract out work to lower-paid facilities and threats to the pension plan. Many expressed a determination to strike if the company doesn't back down on its threats.

Telephone operators complained of the speedup and relentless pressure on the job, which has led to many quitting or having to go on stress leave. With management listening in and keeping track of how long they handle each call, they are forced to take one call after another in rapid succession, "with-

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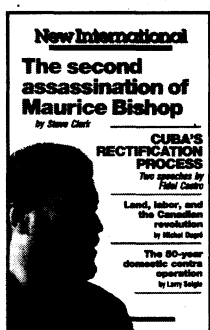
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Thousands protest sell-off of telephone company in Brazil

Thousands of students, trade unionists, and landless peasants protested the sell-off of the state-owned telephone company, Telecomunicações Brasileiras, outside Brazil's stock exchange July 29. Police responded by using tear gas, water cannons, and batons against the demonstrators. The government has already sold its stake in many of the major industries to foreign and Brazilian capitalists, including steel, petrochemicals, railroads, the electrical industry, and the major aircraft manufacturer. The three largest investors in the phone deal are Spain's Telefónica, Portugal's Telecom, and the U.S. phone mogul MCI. The government says the sell-off of the national patrimony is necessary to bolster the Brazilian economy, which has fallen into deeper crisis since the financial turmoil that began a year ago in Asia. Brazil, the world's fifth largest nation with 162 million people, now has official unemployment at 8.2 percent — the highest in 14 years.

Landless peasants in Brazil occupy food trucks, banks, farms

Members of the Movement of Landless Rural Workers (MST) confiscated seven trucks carrying food and occupied two farms and a bank in the northern state of Pernambuco, Brazil, July 27. The MST actions are part of their "tasks of struggle" to protest the government's lack of attention to the hunger in the region due to severe drought since the beginning of this year. "People are starving and the only solution they have is to loot the trucks that carry food," said Jaime Amorim, MST coordinator in Pernambuco, one of the states most affected by the drought and the loss of harvest. Amorim said MST members briefly occupied the branch of a Banco do Brasil in Quipapa to demand the financial institution provide more flexible credit to small peasant farmers. Some 140 families of landless peasants have also confiscated two unoccupied farms in Pernambuco, according to Amorim. The MST represents some 200,000 peasant families that have no land to work and organize occupation of farms that have



Protest in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, against sell-off of phone company August 1.

been abandoned.

Mexico inmates on hunger strike

About 83 indigenous prisoners in the Mexican state of Chiapas began a hunger strike August 1 to demand their freedom. The prisoners are being held in the towns of Yajalon and Tuxtla Gutiérrez. Aurelio López Ruiz, a spokesman for the prisoners, said the men believe they are imprisoned because they sympathize with the Zapatista National Liberation Front, an armed organization in Chiapas fighting for indigenous rights.

Chemical workers strike in South Africa

About 5,000 members of the Chemical Workers Industrial Union (CWIU) went on a nationwide 24-hour strike July 30 as part of a fight by 40,000 unionists for a 10.5 percent pay increase. The CWIU workers joined the South African Chemical Workers' Union (SACWU), who have entered

their second week on strike. An "all-out strike" has been called by the CWIU for August 3.

Meanwhile, the 21,000-strong National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) announced July 31 that they may strike the following week over wages.

Senegal: protests demand release of union activists

Police used tear gas against a demonstration organized by the National Union of Free Trade Unionists of Senegal (UNSAF) July 31. The trade unionists and others were demanding the release of union leaders from jail, particularly Mademba Sock, secretary-general of the Electricity Workers Union, and 25 others who were arrested July 20. Sock was accused of collaborating with others to sabotage equipment of the electricity company during a sit-down strike, which had been called to protest the sell-off of the state-owned electrical company.

Russian miners demand pay

In the town of Partizansk, in Russia's Maritime Territory, miners blockaded the Nagornoye mines offices and began a hunger strike July 28 over owed wages dating back to November. Within four days, the number of hunger strikers rose to 61 miners. Since May miners throughout the eastern part of the country have been occupying offices, blocking railways, and conducting strike actions demanding back pay.

Meetings and rallies took place at Avangard and Uglekamskaya coal mines July 31, with practically the entire adult population of Partizansk and surrounding towns participating. Decisions adopted at those meetings included calling for the res-

ignation of Russia's president and Cabinet of Ministers.

Protests by miners also include a strike on the island of Sakhalin in Russia's far East; 300 in Chelyabinsk who have shut a Trans-Siberian rail line for almost a week; and 200 miners camping outside the Kremlin in Moscow demanding back wages.

After Russian prime minister Sergei Kiriyenko threatened to use force against the miners, the 600,000-member coal miners union promised to block entrances to foreign embassies if force is used by Moscow. One union spokesman said that if wages are not paid by this autumn, the miners will block all rail traffic in and out of Moscow.

Ireland: rail workers strike

Rail transportation ground to a halt in the 26 counties of the Republic of Ireland July 12, as only four of 155 rail workers in the National Locomotive Drivers Committee (NDLC) turned up for work. The one-day strike was held to protest the refusal of the Iarnród Éireann bosses to meet with the drivers to discuss wages, working conditions, passenger safety, and other issues. Currently, workers put in an average of more than 60 hours a week and can work up to 35 Sundays a year. The company has broken five promises to meet with the drivers since last August, when drivers presented Iarnród Éireann with their position on these issues.

Prison guards indicted for abuse

Four prison guards were indicted July 29 on charges of violating the civil rights of three inmates at Brazoria County Detention Center, just south of Houston, Texas. The indictments accuse the jailers of hitting, kicking, shocking with a stun gun, and goading dogs to bite the prisoners, creating a mock riot in order to produce a training video. The video was made in 1996, and became public last year during court proceedings on a lawsuit brought by inmates, including the three who were in the video.

N.Y. restricts prisoners' rights

The Democratic-controlled New York State Assembly passed a bill July 29 that sharply restricts the right to a parole for inmates with first-time convictions of violent felonies; extends the period of time of parole after being released; and requires that those who brought charges against the inmate be informed when a prisoner is released, escapes, or is placed on "post-release supervision." The bipartisan bill, which has already been approved by the State Senate, ends early releases, requiring the prisoner to serve at least 85 percent of the maximum sentence. Previously, the state was required, in most cases, to grant parole after prisoners served two-thirds of the maximum sentence. The new bill, would also establish a three-to-five-year "post-release supervision" period past the maximum sentence. Parolees convicted of sex crimes would be subjected to lifetime supervision.

— MEGAN ARNEY

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Telephone workers in Puerto Rico stronger after strike

BY ERNIE MAILHOT

MIAMI — After 41 days on strike, 6,400 telephone workers in Puerto Rico returned to work July 29. The strikers had voted overwhelmingly to accept a union agreement with the Puerto Rico Telephone Co. and the island's government.

The workers struck to oppose the sale of the state-owned utility to a consortium led by U.S. telecommunications giant GTE. The labor battle, which was backed by a July 7-8 general strike called by a coalition of 50 unions, became a focal point of working-class opposition to the government's economic policies and an expression of nationalist sentiment.

Meanwhile, the pro-statehood administration of Gov. Pedro Rosselló is moving ahead with plans to sell the utility to GTE for \$2 billion, a slightly higher price than it had originally agreed to before the strike.

According to the agreement ending the strike, the only sanction against the strikers would be a letter of reprimand that will remain in workers' files for six months.

Unionists returned to work in a defiant mood. In the western city of Mayagüez, members of the Independent Union of Telephone Workers (UIET) said they would refuse to enter work until a security guard

known for harassing the strikers was removed from his post.

Dozens of workers were blocked from going back to work at Plaza Celulares Telefónica in San Juan on the first day back because they were wearing pro-union T-shirts that condemned police brutality against strikers and criticized strikebreakers. The workers refused to accept official company T-shirts offered to them in exchange.

Another five unionists were given indefinite suspensions in Ponce. The company accused them of attacking other workers during the strike.

José Damián Díaz, a representative of the Independent Brotherhood of Telephone Workers (HIETEL), said in a telephone interview from the union's headquarters in San Juan, "The company has violated the agreement by suspending 10 workers. They suspended them for supposed insubordination to supervisors, lack of respect, and threatening acts."

In a phone interview, Iván Velásquez, a member of HIETEL, said the returning telephone workers are anything but defeated. "Our morale is good. The strike was worth it because of the positive results," said Velásquez. "Our unions are stronger. There



Militant/Nancy Cole

Supporters of telephone workers picket in San Juan, Puerto Rico, July 8. Sign reads, "No to the biggest robbery in history. No to the sale of Telefonica."

were very few strikebreakers," he said, referring to the little over 100 telephone workers who crossed the picket line.

Cecilia Ortiz, another HIETEL member, said the massive support in the Puerto Rican population that the strikers received was one of the biggest accomplishments of the strike. As an example, she pointed to the two-day island-wide general strike in July by half a million workers to back the telephone strikers.

During this reporter's visit to Puerto Rico during the general strike, it was common to hear workers explaining their support for the strike by saying that the telephone com-

pany was part of the patrimony of Puerto Rico and they opposed its sale. Several of them added that while they might not be able to stop the sale of the telephone company right now, the strike was a success nonetheless because it showed the potential strength of working people, and it showed Rosselló that the government would be in for a real fight in future moves to sell off other state-owned enterprises.

Ernie Mailhot is a member of the International Association of Machinists Local 1126 in Miami. Rollande Girard contributed to this article.

GM bosses launch new assault in drive for profits

BY HOLLY HARKNESS

DETROIT — In a major cost-cutting move, General Motors Corporation announced plans August 3 to spin off its Delphi Automotive Parts unit to investors. Delphi has 200,000 employees worldwide, about one-third of GM's total employment. About 50,000 Delphi workers are members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) in the United States.

The announcement came just days after GM and the UAW settled strikes at two GM plants in Flint, Michigan, including the Delphi East plant. Key issues in the strikes were the outsourcing of jobs and GM's threats to sell or close its less profitable operations.

Under the agreement reached July 28, the company had promised not to sell the Flint plant or two Delphi brake plants in Dayton, Ohio, until Jan. 1, 2000. In return the UAW

agreed to a no-strike pledge at those locals until the expiration of the national agreement in September 1999. GM said it would honor their agreement at the three plants.

The decision to spin off the Delphi unit marks a significant change in GM's decades-old practice of producing their auto and truck parts in-house. Its main U.S. competitors, Ford and Chrysler, sold off or closed many of their parts plants in late 1970s and early 1980s. This has helped them get an edge on GM by buying parts cheaper from outside suppliers who don't fall under the "Big Three" auto contracts.

As an independent company, Delphi will still sell its products to GM, but GM will also be freed up to buy parts from other auto parts makers at lower prices. This will increase the pressure on Delphi to cut costs, including closing "unprofitable" plants and

slashing workers' wages and benefits.

Donald Runkle, vice president and general manager of Flint-based Delphi Energy and Engine Management Systems, told the *Flint Journal* that wages were an important factor in Delphi's ability to become competitive. "I don't want to say a two-tier or three-tier [wage structure] is the way to do it. We will have to sit down with the union."

Workers at Delphi East had a mixed reaction to the announced spin off. Many wondered what effect it would have on their retirement benefits.

"It'll be good for Delphi, just to get them away from GM," Neil VanAlst, a fuel pump job setter, told the *Flint Journal*. "Once GM gets out of it, the business will probably run a heck of a lot better."

Then he added, "It's just another step for

them being able to sell the plant and cut my wages. It just depends what they end up doing, and I can't see them doing anything to benefit me."

UAW vice president Richard Shoemaker issued a statement following GM's announcement. He said the union opposed the Delphi sale and pledged to "aggressively work to protect the rights and interests of UAW members impacted by the sale."

On August 4 GM made a second announcement; a sweeping reorganization and consolidation of its sales, service and marketing operations in GM's five divisions: Chevrolet, Pontiac-GMC, Buick, Cadillac and Oldsmobile.

The move is expected to cut \$300 million in costs and eliminate up to 1,000 white-collar jobs.

Korean auto workers keep plant shut tight

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

On July 28 workers in south Korea blocked an attempt by the Hyundai Motor Company to reopen factories that had been closed for more than a week.

Hyundai bosses tried to start production at a plant that made the Atoz compact car but gave up after about 10 minutes because union members "threatened to kill them," said Lee Byung Ho, a company spokesman, according to the Bloomberg News service. Atoz cars account for one-third of Hyundai's exports.

Production lines remained idle as 2,600 police surrounded five Hyundai factories in the southern city of Ulsan, according to witnesses. More than 1,000 workers have been living in tents inside the plants since Hyundai shut them on July 20 to avoid clashes with the workers. A plane that flew over the factories July 28 dropped thousands of leaflets by the company urging union members to end the occupations and return to work.

More than 10,000 unionists rallied in Ulsan that morning, vowing to stay away from work and continue the factory takeovers until the bosses scrapped layoff plans.

Hyundai announced in April that nearly 18 percent of its 46,000 employees will be laid off because of a 50 percent drop in domestic car sales this year in south Korea. About 2,700 Hyundai workers subsequently received layoff notices. On July 31 the company dismissed 1,569 employees who had

rejected early-retirement offers amounting to 10 months of wages. More than 6,000 workers had already accepted early retirement.

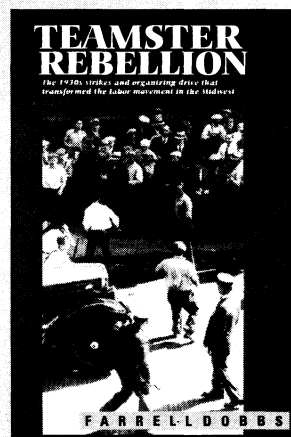
Hyundai had shipped 14,000 vehicles in July and had orders for 33,000 more, according to Lee Byung Ho. It has only 5,300 vehicles in stock, down from an average inventory of 13,000, because of the recent strikes. The company has been operating at only 40 percent capacity, its lowest level ever, as depression conditions have spread in south Korea and the rest of southeast Asia.

South Korea's Gross Domestic Product is expected to decline 4 percent this year. Earlier estimates had put the anticipated drop at 1 percent. Unemployment grew by an average of 2,000 people per day the first half of this year, reaching 1.5 million, or 6.7 percent, by the end of June. By year's end, 2 million workers — 9 percent — are expected to be jobless. This is a result of Seoul's "industrial restructuring" under the terms of the International Monetary Fund \$58-billion loan last December. That "bail-out" package followed steep devaluations of the won, south Korea's currency, against the U.S. dollar.

Many south Korean companies are now on the auction block, including Kia Motors, one of the country's largest car makers that has declared bankruptcy and that U.S. companies like Ford and General Motors are trying to acquire at bargain prices.

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BY FARRELL DOBBS



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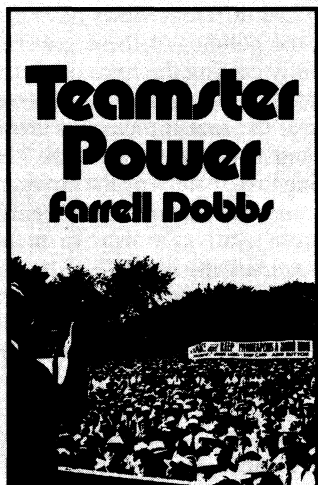
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Gov't expels Carey from Teamsters

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

A U.S. court-appointed board expelled Teamsters president Ronald Carey from the union July 27.

The so-called Independent Review Board justified its action on grounds that Carey should have known — even if he didn't actually know — that some \$1.4 million was illegally diverted from union funds to his re-election campaign by some of his campaign aides. The board also ousted William Hamilton, former Teamsters director of governmental affairs.

The expulsion of the Teamsters president is the latest in a decades-long series of federal government interventions in the internal affairs of the biggest union in the United States. The government has justified its interference in the name of ridding the Teamsters of corruption and ties to the Mafia.

Former FBI and CIA chief William Webster wrote the board's ruling, which was also signed by Grant Crandall, a lawyer. The third board member, former federal judge Frederick Lacey, issued a separate statement claiming Carey knew about the diversion of funds, to which three Carey campaign aides have pleaded guilty.

The board, which has wide powers to supervise the Teamsters' day-to-day affairs, was set up as part of a 1989 "consent decree" imposed on the union by the U.S. Jus-

tice Department in exchange for dropping a civil racketeering suit against Teamsters officials. The decree also gave the government the authority to monitor the union's elections.

Carey was elected Teamsters president in 1991 and won reelection in 1996 in a narrow victory over rival James Hoffa. In August 1997, just days after 185,000 Teamsters won a national strike against United Parcel Service, Barbara Zack Quindel, a Clinton administration official appointed to oversee the union, annulled Carey's December 1996 reelection and launched an investigation against him for improper fund-raising. Later, another government overseer, Kenneth Conboy, barred Carey from the federally ordered rerun election.

A third federal monitor, former prosecutor Michael Cherkasky, ruled he would allow Hoffa to run for union president, although he claimed Hoffa had carried out questionable fund-raising practices in the 1996 election campaign.

Meanwhile, a federal grand jury in New York is carrying out an investigation against Carey in relation to his campaign's fund raising.

Both Carey and Hoffa have called on the U.S. government to investigate each other. Hoffa cheered the federal board's expulsion of Carey from the union.

New imagesetter cuts labor in producing 'Militant' and books



Militant/Hilda Cuzco

This is the first issue of the *Militant* to be produced using the new digital imagesetter acquired by the print shop that produces Pathfinder books, the *Militant*, and other socialist literature. The machine makes it possible to output the entire paper to film and produce plates for the printing press in one hour, drastically reducing the time to produce film and virtually eliminating hand-stripping. The imagesetter is the first step toward a complete computer-to-plate production system that, together with the work by some 150 volunteers to convert every Pathfinder book to digital form, will make it possible to keep the books fighting workers need in print, at a lower cost and with less labor. Above, training on how to prepare *Militant* pages for printing to imagesetter.

NATO renews threats as Kosova fighting heats up

Continued from front page

of this province. The UCK is a guerrilla group that has been leading an armed struggle for independence of Kosova, whose population of 2.1 million is 90 percent Albanian. Belgrade's army and police appeared to have taken the upper hand in many UCK strongholds by the start of August.

Washington and other imperialist powers are using the conflict to deepen imperialist intervention in the Balkans, with the goal of reimposing the domination of capitalism in Yugoslavia and tightening their encirclement of Russia.

NATO renews threats of intervention

"NATO has now approved a range of contingency plans for the use of military force in this regard," said James Rubin, spokesman for the U.S. State Department, August 3. He was referring to decisions the previous week by the North Atlantic Council, made up of representatives of NATO member countries. Plans include possible bombing raids against Yugoslav army bases and missile strikes. Land deployment of troops is less likely at this point, U.S. officials say.

Moscow stated it would veto United Nations Security Council authorization of military intervention into Kosova, if Washington seeks it. The Russian government has been on a collision course with the U.S. rulers over NATO expansion into Eastern Europe, U.S. policy on Iraq, and U.S. attempts to dominate the oil in the former Soviet republics of the Caspian Sea region.

The government of Hungary, due to become a NATO member within the year, has said it will not allow its soil to be used as a base for any NATO operation in Kosova.

On July 21 the United Nations Security Council voted, on Washington's initiative, to add 350 troops to its 1,000-strong "peace-keeping" force in the neighboring republic of Macedonia and extend its mandate to February. About half the force is made up of U.S. soldiers and has been there since 1992. UN secretary general Kofi Annan had earlier called for the withdrawal of the force. At least 23 percent of Macedonia's population are Albanians, who in their majority support the independence struggle in Kosova and have been leading their own struggle against national oppression inside that republic.

The fight for independence in Kosova — a region formally part of the Republic of Serbia — began to grow in 1989, when the regime of Slobodan Milosevic, now president of Yugoslavia, revoked Kosova's autonomous status. Since then Belgrade has ruled the province under a state of emergency and with brute force. The overwhelming majority of Albanians have been fired from state administration, health-care facilities, schools, and industry for refusing to sign "loyalty oaths" to Serbia.

The U.S. government has been posing as a defender of the national rights of Albanians. Over the last month, however, officials from Washington and other capitalist governments in the European Union (EU) have made increasingly clear their disgust with sections of the leadership of the Kosova independence movement.

"There was a general recognition that the K.L.A. [Kosova Liberation Army] was getting too big for its boots and needed to be taken down a peg or two before there can be negotiations." This was a quote from an unnamed "Western official involved in Kosovo policy making" cited in a July 29 *New York Times* article a few days after Belgrade's all-out offensive began.

On June 15 NATO conducted extensive military exercises in Albania and Macedonia, including simulations of air raids on Serbia. In the month that followed, the UCK began making advances on the military front, including taking control briefly of Orahovac, a town of 20,000 in western Kosova, on July 19. NATO officials stated at the time they were stepping back from threats to intervene. Washington and other imperialist powers have consistently opposed independence and called for return of autonomy to Kosova instead, which most Kosovar Albanians reject. Since early July the big-business press has run articles with headlines like "Frustrated by Kosova stalemate, the West criticizes all sides" and "Rise of Kosova guerrillas puts NATO powers in a bind." And the so-called Contact Group issued statements condemning "armed Kosovo Albanian groups" for violence.

The Contact Group — made up of the governments of the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, and Russia — is charged with overseeing the implementation of the Dayton accord. That was the treaty Washington forced the warring regimes in Yugoslavia to sign in 1995, paving the way for Bosnia's occupation by NATO troops.

Some disillusionment with imperialism

This course has provoked angry reactions and some disillusionment among Albanians in Kosova, many of whom had previously accepted reliance on Washington and calls for NATO intervention put forward by pro-imperialist politicians there. Christopher Hill, U.S. ambassador to Macedonia, faced mostly hostile questions by Albanian reporters at an August 3 press conference in Pristina. "There is a general feeling in Kosova that the recent massacre is being helped by the U.S. and Europe," one reporter stated. The Democratic League of Kosova, headed by Ibrahim Rugova, who has been the foremost proponent of dependence on Washington, split earlier this spring. A section of its leadership, headed by Mehmet Hajrizi, who favors direct links with the UCK, formed the Albanian Democratic Movement.

"The KLA and leaders of the Kosovo Albanian majority accuse western governments of giving Mr. Milosevic the 'green light' to attack the pro-independence rebels in order to weaken their position ahead of the possible resumption of peace talks," said an article in the August 3 *Financial Times* of London.

"I have never expected any help from the capitalist governments in Europe or the United States," Lulëson Jagxhiu said in the August 6 interview. "But many Albanians who had different views have come to see that the policies of these governments are actually costing the lives of civilians."

Jagxhiu said many Albanians in Kosova look at the recent measures taken in Switzerland as a "stab in the back." He was referring to new steps by the government there to prosecute Albanian immigrants who send funds to relatives in Kosova on the grounds they are helping the UCK. The government of Germany is considering similar measures, Jagxhiu pointed out, and Washington has been pressuring Bonn to do so. Germany and Switzerland are the two countries in Europe with the largest concentrations of Albanians from Kosova. "Many Albanians depend on remittances from abroad to survive," Jagxhiu said. "And now these funds are being cut off. These kinds of sanctions show these governments are working against our cause. They are not on our side." Jagxhiu pointed out that with tens of thousands of people fleeing in the mountains material

support from relatives abroad is critical.

The offensive by Belgrade has required approximately \$2 million per day and tens of thousands of troops, many of them new conscripts in the Yugoslav army with little training and no desire to fight. Mothers of these soldiers have begun to stage protests in Belgrade demanding their sons be brought back. About 100 such women demonstrated outside the army's general headquarters in mid-July, throwing coffee on Gen. Gradimir Zivanovic, who announced the death of another Serbian soldier in Kosova. "Fascists, fascists. Give us our children back!" shouted Andjelka, one of the women.

Other such protests continue, though they remain small. "We are watching very carefully what's happening in Serbia," Jagxhiu said. "Many people in Serbia don't want to fight us. Many soldiers are sent to the front without being told where they are going or why. Though this resistance is still small, we hope it will increase. We have also been working with students in Belgrade who have waged antiwar protests."

An appeal to 'Militant' readers

Dear reader,

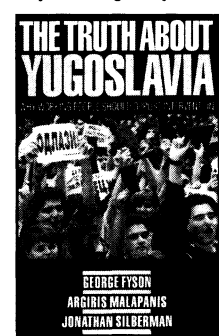
On August 1, volunteers began entering the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriber lists into a new, more efficient software subscription program. It is simpler to use for the volunteers who process subscriptions on a weekly basis — and train new ones to do so, it makes it easier to produce user-friendly lists of subscribers that supporters in local areas use for subscription work, and it doesn't have the year 2000 problem as the old program did.

We are appealing for help from supporters who could come in for anywhere from a day to a couple of weeks to complete 200–250 hours of data entry, plus additional time for proofreading and entry of corrections. We project having all the subscriptions entered by August 31, so that the new program will be on line for the next subscription campaign for new readers. That means an average of 80 hours of volunteer time per week over the next three weeks. Please contact the *Militant* Business Office (see information on page 2) if you would like to help or if you know someone else in your area who is available to help with this project.

Maurice Williams
'Militant' Business Manager

The Truth about Yugoslavia

Why Working People Should Oppose Intervention



George Fyson,
Argiris Malapanis,
Jonathan Silberman

Examines the roots of the carnage in the Yugoslav workers state, where the U.S. and European powers are intervening militarily

to advance their competing interests. Explains how groups of would-be capitalists—fragments of the former Stalinist regime—are fighting a war for territory and resources. \$8.95

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12

'Militant' extends sub renewal drive

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

The campaign to expand the long-term readership of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* has now gained momentum, with 138 subscribers renewing their subscriptions over the past two weeks. Supporters of the socialist press have decided to extend the drive for two weeks until August 18 to take advantage of this momentum. The campaign had initially stalled after being launched just a few days before the Active Workers Conference in Pittsburgh. Several *Militant* supporters have pointed out that it would have been better to start the drive right after the Pittsburgh meeting, which politically armed and gave a boost to the socialist workers who took part in it.

"I'm glad we're extending the subscription renewal campaign," said Sylvie Charbin, a member of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) from Toronto. "We got off to a slow start and didn't get back to everybody. Now we can get back to co-workers we hadn't been able to reach yet." Supporters in Toronto have already gone over their *Militant* goal by 56 percent. "We decided to prioritize the campaign and treated it like the campaign we organized last spring to win new subscribers," Charbin added. "We set up phone calling and spent lots of time on the telephone in political discussion that paid off."

"We called up one worker from Bosnia whom we met going door to door who had bought an introductory subscription last spring. He thought the *Militant* was an honest paper, but utopian and idealistic in its coverage of Yugoslavia. He thought NATO

intervention brought peace to the Balkans. We explained why we thought the imperialist occupation force has deepened the crisis there and discussed the disintegration of the Stalinist regimes in Europe and around the world.

"We had a hard time setting up an appointment with him since he works second shift, but we finally met with him and had a discussion for two hours. He bought the Marxist magazine *New International* no. 10, which features the article "Imperialism's march toward fascism and war," as he renewed his subscription to the *Militant*. He also expressed interest in attending the next *Militant* Labor Forum we organize at the Pathfinder Bookstore in Toronto," she stated. "It took work, persistence, and political discussions to get him to renew his subscription. And we always start out wanting to know if subscribers received their paper regularly and what they liked about it."

Ruth Robinett, a rail worker at Amtrak and Socialist Workers candidate for attorney general in New York, explained that "what the *Militant* has been covering around the recent strikes by workers is really being followed closely by some people where I work. One afternoon I stayed after work with Ellie Garcia, a supporter of the campaign, talking with co-workers at Penn Station, selling the *Militant* and getting petitions signed to help get Socialist Workers candidates on the ballot in New York state. Four of the five co-workers who renewed their subscriptions are in the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (BMWE)



Militant/Carmen Magmi

Socialist Workers candidate for Washington State Senate Scott Breen, collecting signatures to place him on the ballot in Seattle. King County election officials have ruled Breen off the ballot, claiming he fell short by 34 signatures (see page 14).

who we met when they were preparing to walk off the job last year. We also got 37 signatures for our petitioning drive."

Three workers at Pemco, a United Auto Workers-organized plant in Birmingham, Alabama, renewed their subscriptions this past week. "Some of the renewals are long-term readers of the *Militant* who have not always kept up their subscriptions," said

Susan LaMont, a steelworker in Alabama. "One of my co-workers who renewed his subscription has watched what has been happening in the union movement and wants to follow it more. The General Motors strike was the biggest thing he wanted to know about."

Mary Martin, a member of the IAM at Northwest Airlines in Washington, D.C., said, "We sold a *Militant* renewal at the August 4 union meeting to discuss the rejection of the contract." Martin reported that supporters of the *Militant* there have gone over their goal by 33 percent, getting 12 people to renew their subscriptions. Some are co-workers; others are longtime supporters of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* who had not been recently active in politics. "They are coming back around politics in response to the determination we're seeing today among working people to fight against the bosses' demands for concessions."

N.Y. socialists appeal for help in fight to get candidates on the ballot

BY MIKE GALATI

NEW YORK — Supporters of the New York Socialist Workers Campaign are hitting the pavement to collect the thousands of petition signatures needed to put Al Duncan for governor, Ruth Robinett for lieutenant governor, and Rose Ana Berbeo for U.S. Senate on the ballot in New York state. They are getting a good response from workers who may soon be on strike at Bell Atlantic, Blacks outraged at Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's vow to prevent the upcoming Million Youth March from passing through

Harlem, airline workers, taxi drivers, and others.

But there's a lot of work ahead, and the campaign is appealing for help from supporters around the area to pitch in. As of August 5, 8,600 signatures had been collected. The goal is to turn in 22,000 signatures by August 18. That is one and a half times the number required by the state election laws, designed to make it difficult for working-class candidates to be on the ballot.

Plans for the coming 10 days include day-

long and evening teams every day, as well as regional teams to Buffalo, Albany, and Long Island. Supporters plan to get back to Ossining, New York, where gubernatorial candidate Duncan recently participated in a vigil with activists against police brutality there who are demanding that the cops who shot and killed 24-year-old Christopher Malone, a Black man, be jailed.

All those who would like to volunteer can contact the campaign office at (718) 230-8643.

FROM PATHFINDER

Puerto Rico: U.S. Colony in the Caribbean

José G. Pérez



Puerto Rico: U.S. Colony in the Caribbean

José G. Pérez

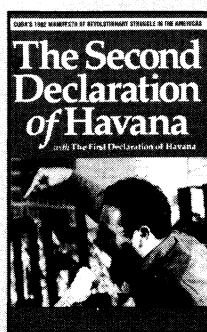
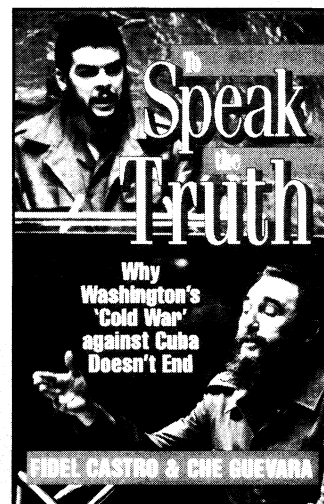
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RENEWAL DRIVE JULY 8 - AUGUST 18

	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold
Iceland	3	5	167%		
Australia	3	4	133%	1	0
Canada					
Toronto	9	14	156%	1	0
Montreal	4	3	75%	3	0
Vancouver	12	4	33%	1	0
Canada Total	25	21	84%	5	0
Sweden	4	3	75%	1	1
United States					
Washington, D.C.	9	12	133%	3	2
Atlanta	7	7	100%	3	2
Boston	14	14	100%	3	1
Des Moines	8	7	88%	4	0
Miami	10	8	80%	5	5
Birmingham, AL	10	7	70%	2	0
Philadelphia	8	5	63%	1	0
Cleveland	8	4	50%	2	0
Detroit	10	5	50%	2	0
Houston	8	4	50%	2	0
Newark, NJ	20	10	50%	8	4
Chicago	14	6	43%	6	1
Pittsburgh	10	4	40%	1	0
Los Angeles	20	7	35%	8	5
Twin Cities, MN	13	4	31%	2	0
San Francisco	17	5	29%	7	0
Seattle	13	3	23%	3	0
New York	30	7	23%	15	1
U.S. Total	229	119	52%	77	21
New Zealand					
Christchurch	6	2	33%		
Auckland	6	1	17%		
N.Z. Total	12	3	25%	0	0
United Kingdom					
London	10	3	30%	2	1
Manchester	3	0	0%	0	0
UK Total	13	3	23%	2	1
Other		3			
International totals	289	161	59%	86	23
Goal/Should be at	275	184	67%	85	57

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Idaho: 1,000 turn out to counter racists

BY NAN BAILEY

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho — A crowd of close to 1,000 people lined the streets of this resort city July 18 to countermobilize against a march of 90 racists who chanted "White Power" as they marched through downtown Coeur D'Alene.

The march was organized by the ultrarightist group Aryan Nations. The marchers, most of them young skinheads, were joined by several robed members of the Ku Klux Klan who traveled from Texas to join the action.

Police from at least five city, county, state, and federal cop agencies were on hand in large numbers. They arrested about a dozen counterprotesters.

"You're not welcome here," people yelled as the rightists marched. The shouting from protesters lining the streets was so loud that it was impossible to hear the speech of Richard Butler, national head of the Aryan Nations, who led the march riding in a jeep with a bullhorn.

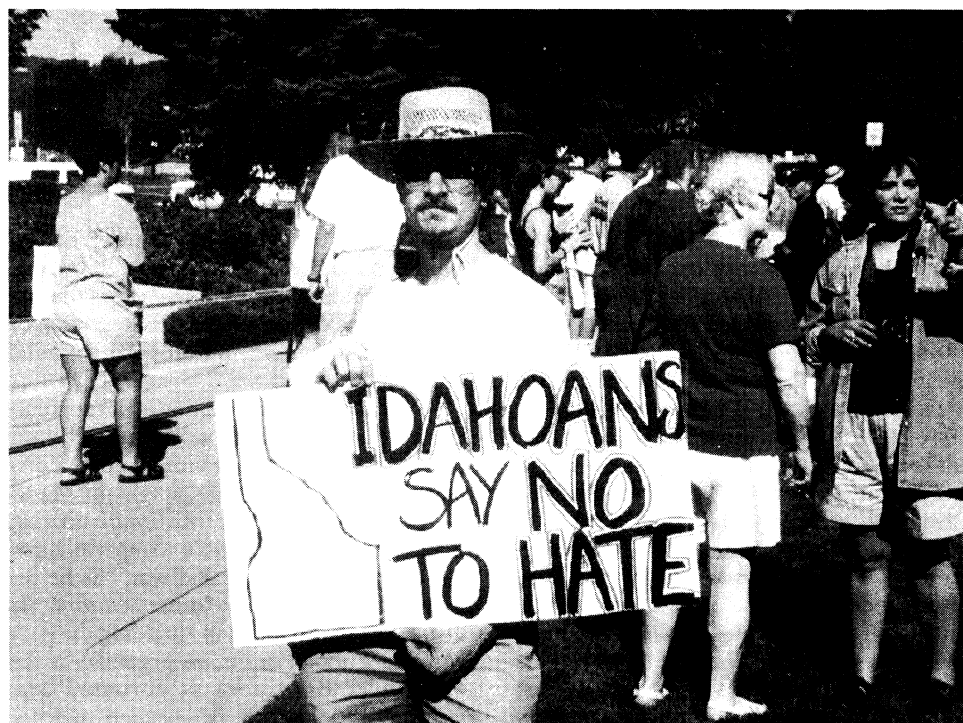
Counterprotesters carried signs saying

"No master race. We're all people," "Nazis out of Idaho," "Turn your back on bigotry," and "Say no to racism and yes to equality and human rights."

Pwint Htun, a young Burmese woman who works as an engineer for the Hewlett Packard company near Spokane, Washington, traveled to Coeur D'Alene to join the counterprotest with several of her co-workers. "I'm here because we need to be in their face telling them we don't like what they're doing in this area," she said.

Jeff Elliott, part of a group who traveled from Moscow, Idaho, to join the counterprotest, explained why he was there. "I'm upset and angry that this should happen in our state," he said. "We wanted to come here and show that people from Idaho don't support Nazis and racists."

The hundreds who showed up to protest the Aryan Nations march ignored the pleas of some civil rights groups and religious leaders in the area who urged people to stay away from Coeur D'Alene that day and show their opposition in other ways.



Militant/Mark Severs

Hundreds came on their own or with friends to protest Aryan Nations in Coeur D'Alene

In addition to the counterprotest in Coeur D'Alene, protests against the ultrarightists also took place in Spokane, 30 miles west of here, and in Moscow, Idaho.

Nan Bailey is a member of the International Association of Machinists and the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in Washington state.

Protests demand justice in racist killing in London

BY CAROLINE BELLAMY AND SHELLIA KENNEDY

LONDON — "From the time of my son's murder the police attitude toward my family and people in the Black community has been disgraceful," said Doreen Lawrence. She was speaking on June 29 after police sprayed CS gas at supporters trying to force their way into an inquiry into the investigation and prosecution of the killing of her son, Stephen.

Stephen Lawrence, an 18-year-old student, was murdered in April 1993 in Eltham, southeast London. The inquest jury returned a verdict of "unlawful killing in a completely unprovoked racist attack by five white youths."

After the Crown Prosecution Service refused to bring the case to trial due to lack of evidence, the Lawrence family brought a private prosecution against five white youths. The case against two of them was dropped at the committal stage and the prosecution of the other three collapsed when the court ruled identification evidence inadmissible.

The current inquiry has centered on the fact that the five suspects were not arrested until two weeks after the murder, despite subsequent police admissions that there was

enough evidence to arrest them three days after the killing. Lawyers for the Lawrences suggest that the delay in making arrests may have allowed evidence to be destroyed.

Some 600 people attended the hearing June 29, in response to calls by the Lawrence family to show their support. Crowds of uniformed cops used metal detectors to search those entering the inquiry room. When police refused entry to members of the Nation of Islam, those waiting tried to force their way in and the police sprayed CS gas amid scuffles. Thirty members of the Nation of Islam also stormed the hearing room as the first suspect took the stand. The following day there was a small riot as 100 protesters fought police protecting the suspects. Bottles, cans, and other missiles were thrown as the five left the inquiry.

Doreen Lawrence told the inquiry that from the outset she believed that racism permeated the murder inquiry. "I believe because the police spent so much time investigating my family and Stephen...they were trying to prove that Stephen was involved in something and was not attacked just for being Black," she said. "It was like you have to be a criminal if you are Black."

When Stephen Lawrence died in the hos-

pital, police asked his friend Duwayne Brooks, who was with him at the time of the attack, who they had started trouble. "I told them we didn't start trouble with anyone," Brooks said. "Another officer asked 'Are you sure they called you niggers?' They asked if I had a criminal record and if Stephen had a criminal record."

The lack of firm evidence against the suspects has been blamed on a predominantly white community that had "seen nothing, heard nothing, knew nothing." However, 26 people gave the names of the suspects, including a woman who told the Lawrences that on the night of the murder four of them had washed blood off themselves in her house. Doreen Lawrence said that when she gave Detective Chief Superintendent William Ilsley the names she saw him crumple the note in his hand. A man had seen the killing from a passing bus and said he could identify some of the suspects, but he was not interviewed immediately.

A police sergeant played a key role in undermining the eyewitness evidence of Duwayne Brooks. Sergeant Christopher Crowley claimed that Brooks had revealed to him that he had only picked out suspect Luke Knight from an identity parade after

being told what he looked like, and that Brooks and Knight had gone to school together. Brooks has always refuted Crowley's version of events. It was subsequently revealed that Brooks did not go to school with any of the murder suspects.

The ruling class is using the almost universal respect for the continuing fight of Neville and Doreen Lawrence and condemnation of the murder, as well as the blatantly racist attitudes of the five suspects, to push workers to accept attacks on democratic rights. The transcript of a video, made by a police spy camera, was read at the inquiry, showing three of the suspects using extremely racist and thuggish language and practicing stabbing people with a knife.

After the collapse of the private prosecution in 1997, the *Daily Mail* published the pictures of the five suspects under the headline, "Murderers," and called for the law that forbids the trying of one person twice for the same crime to be repealed. The *Voice*, a Black weekly newspaper, noted that such an action could make it easier for Blacks to be framed up even if they had been acquitted in a court.

In another attack on democratic rights, Home Secretary Jack Straw has used the events surrounding the Lawrence inquiry to justify continuing the ban on Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the Nation of Islam, from entering Britain.

Caroline Bellamy is a member of the Transport and General Workers' Union. Shellia Kennedy is a member of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union.

Tugboat pilots end 83-day strike

BY TONY DUTROW AND TOM LEONARD

HOUSTON — The Pilots Agree Association announced June 25 that it was ending its 83-day strike for safer conditions, better pay, and union recognition for 3,000 tugboat pilots, according to the June 25 *St.*

Louis Post-Dispatch.

The strike began April 4 against 98 barge companies that control 90 percent of the cargo shipped on the inland waterways, ports, and intracoastal shipping lanes. Combined with rail transport, these bulk cargo carriers are the chief means to ship coal, grain, and other commodities.

Tugboat pilots participated nationwide, from the Great Lakes and canals to the Mississippi and its tributaries to the Gulf. It was spearheaded by 800 of the 1,400 licensed pilots who are members of Pilots Agree and affiliated with the Masters, Mates and Pilots Union (MM&P). Both of these unions are part of the International Longshoremen's Association.

Bill Bruner, a representative of Pilots Agree, said the effective date of the end of the walkout would be August 3, 1998. About 400 pilots remained on strike at the time of the union's June 25 announcement.

Pilots Agree is trying to organize more of the workforce, distributing up to 15,000 union cards to deckhands (the so-called nonlicensed workers) in addition to pilots not yet signed up. Deckhands will be part of its affiliated union, the MM&P.

As soon as pilots walked down the gangplank, the bosses retaliated with firings and a media blitz downplaying the impact of the strike. Charges of sabotage were floated after a spate of barge accidents. One near St. Louis caused 137 barges to lose their moorings and careen down the Mississippi.

The bosses brought in the FBI to investigate. Their "findings" were used to bolster

the charge of sabotage, although the gumshoes found no evidence linking the union. The St. Louis Harbor Association chimed in to post a reward of \$25,000 to imply some criminal act was responsible, rather than the lax safety conditions Pilots Agree was hoping to expose.

The U.S. Coast Guard was used in a similar fashion by the barge owners and their industry association, the American Waterway Operators. Pilots Agree charged the USCG with relaxing safety standards during the strike, permitting brazen violations of tow limits, and allowing pilots to exceed the 12-hour shift maximum.

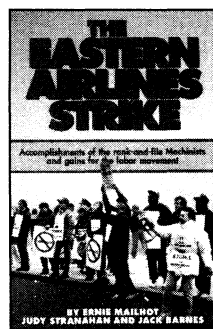
Workers along the waterways responded to PA's call for solidarity. For example, Alabama miners honored tow boat picket lines, refusing to dig coal May 1 and May 4 at the Shoal Creek mine owned by the Drummund Co. The coal bosses were forced to get a federal court injunction to force the miners back to work.

United Food and Commercial Workers members at Tate & Lyle's Domino Sugar refinery near New Orleans also honored the tow boat pilots' picket line when they showed up at that company's bulk cargo dock in April. Domino's bosses retaliated swiftly to back the barge owners, disciplining workers for "violating... the labor agreement."

Pilots Agree and the MM&P have called for a meeting August 22 in Memphis to discuss the impact of the strike and future efforts to continue organizing workers in this industry.

From Pathfinder

The Eastern Airlines Strike



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Ernie Mailhot, Judy Stranahan, and Jack Barnes

The story of the 686-day strike in which a rank-and-file resistance by

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Federation of Southern Cooperatives will meet in Alabama

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

ATLANTA — Black farmers and their supporters from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, South Carolina, and other farm states will gather in Epes, Alabama, for the August 14-15 meeting of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund.

A highlight of the meeting will be an update by J.L. Chestnut, the lead attorney in the \$2.5 billion class action lawsuit filed by Black farmers charging the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) with rampant racial discrimination. The lawsuit *Pigford vs. Glickman* asserts that the USDA failed to investigate hundreds of discrimination complaints, resulting in foreclosures, bankruptcies, and other serious problems. Meeting organizers expect over 200 farmers to participate.

For more information contact the Federation of Southern Cooperatives in Atlanta at (404) 765-0991 or in Epes at (205) 652-9676.

Socialist workers meet to discuss political opportunities in the trade unions today

BY DOUG JENNESS

CHICAGO — Communist unionists from seven industrial unions met in three cities August 1-2. Their discussions focused on organizing to take advantage of the new opportunities opened up by the acceleration of labor resistance and on electing new steering committees of the socialist workers in each of these unions. The meetings came three weeks after an Active Workers Conference held in Pittsburgh, which confirmed that socialist activists are beginning to get involved in the new struggles that are unfolding.

The participants discussed the need for engaging in activity with other fighters wherever resistance develops — from skirmishes on the plant floor to solidarity with strikes. Examples include the recent strikes of General Motors workers at two plants in Flint, Michigan; the growing ferment in the airlines; the three-month-long strike at Titan Tire in Des Moines, Iowa; the recent strike authorization vote at GM's Saturn plant in Tennessee; and the rejection for the second time of a proposed contract by Anheuser-Busch workers.

Another important challenge addressed by the activists was putting more effort into strengthening the presence of socialist workers in the coal mining industry and the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), as well as in the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) and Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE).

Activists from the United Transportation Union (UTU), UFCW, and Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) met in Chicago. Members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) and the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) met in Cleveland, and those from the International Association of Machinists (IAM) and UNITE gathered in Newark, New Jersey. Members of each union met separately, but also came to together in joint sessions where they heard and discussed reports prepared by the SWP's Trade Union Committee.

Struggles in airlines and aerospace

In a report to the meeting of communists who are members of the IAM, Nan Bailey, who works at an aerospace plant located near Seattle, described the growing resistance to employer attacks among workers organized in the IAM. This, she said, includes the recent turnout of workers at Northwest Airlines to vote down a concession contract, work stoppages at TWA, and the 19,000 gate agents and reservations workers who voted to join the union at United Airlines.

Northwest flight attendants organized by the Teamsters, Bailey reported, are holding

picket lines August 7. And Northwest pilots are in a 30-day cooling off period, leading up to a possible strike. "There is a potential, which we should encourage, for these fights to come together," Bailey said. "These struggles open up new opportunities for socialist workers to do union work."

In the meeting of UAW activists, John Sarge, an auto worker from Detroit, described the significance of the workers' fight at General Motors. The unionists who recently struck two auto parts plants in Flint, idling nearly 200,000 workers in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, Sarge reported, forced the owners of GM "to postpone their showdown with the UAW." The central issue in the fight—GM's drive to slash its payroll and impose more onerous work rules—remains unresolved. The resistance is going to continue, Sarge said.

Willie Reid, who works at an auto parts plant in Detroit, described the efforts by activists at her workplace to organize support for the strikers in Flint.

The meeting of socialist workers in the OCAW stressed the importance of the fight being waged by oil refinery workers at Crown Petroleum in Houston. In a separate report to the meeting on this struggle, Tom Leonard, a long-time unionist and leader of the SWP, described the two-and-one-half-year lockout of the workers at the plant and the civil suit against union activists launched by Crown management. "Socialist workers have joined with other unionists to help in this fight," he said. "The stakes are high for the refinery workers at Crown and for the entire labor movement."

Not a 'propaganda nucleus'

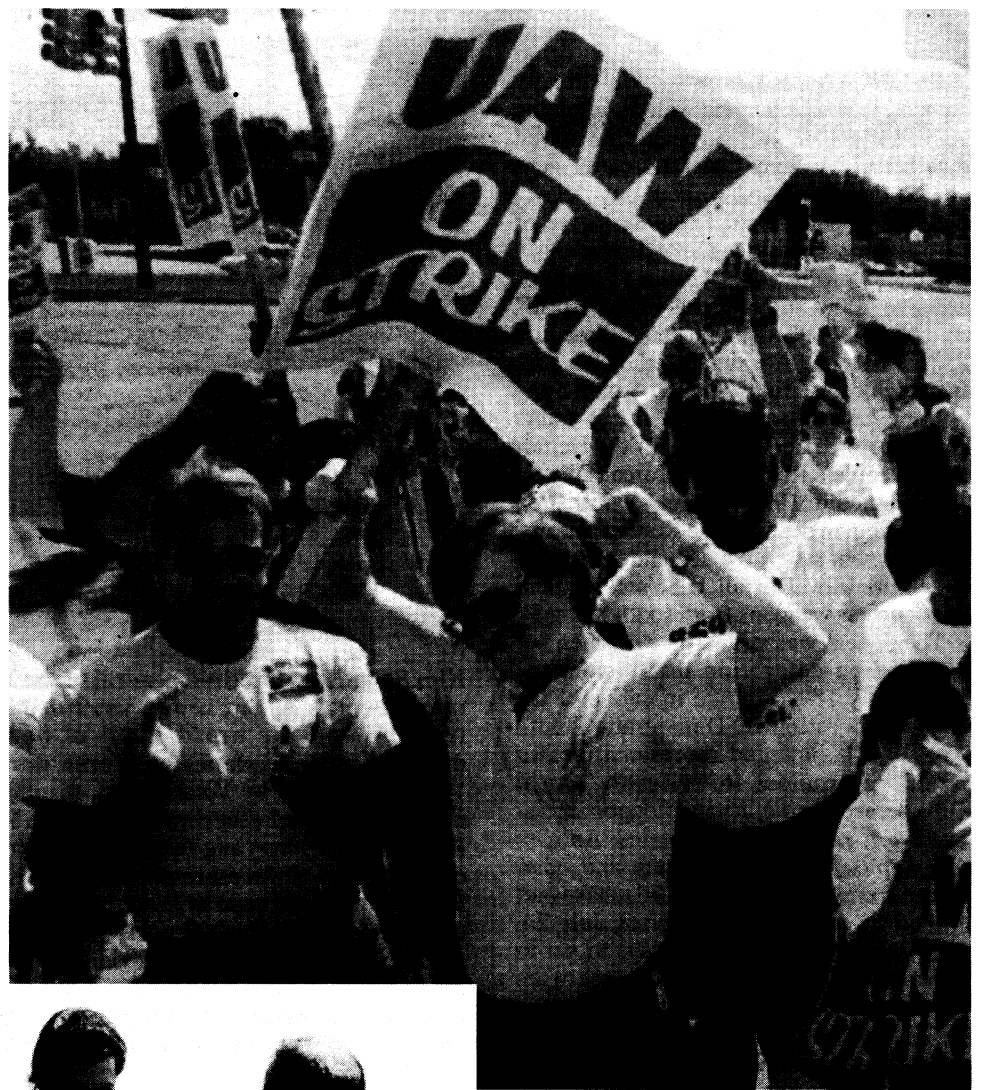
One of the main themes of all the meetings was captured by Joel Britton, an OCAW member from Chicago, when he explained, "We are a component of a larger vanguard of the working class with responsibilities to fighters. What we do can do damage to fellow fighters unless we are competent, careful, and disciplined." He stressed that this is very different from being "a propaganda nucleus" in the unions. That's not what is meant by doing "mass work," he said.

Britton said this means that when there's a strike in the area, "we should be getting to know the strikers and introducing them to other union fighters." When this is done effectively, he said, workers will continue to be in touch with each other following the strikes. "If we go through a strike without getting to know fellow fighters and keeping in contact with them, we aren't doing what we should." One of the consequences of effectively participating in union struggles is that worker-bolsheviks will have broader political discussions and will find people interested in the socialist press and other literature.

During a public forum on labor resistance in Chicago, Rich Stuart, who was attending the UTU meeting from Birmingham, Alabama, described two trips he made with other union activists to Spring Hill, Tennessee, where 5,000 Saturn workers overwhelmingly voted in favor of strike authorization on July 19. On the first trip, he said, the group from Birmingham and Atlanta got into discussions with many workers and learned how their illusion of having it made as Saturn workers is being shattered by worsening conditions. "We got to know some people," Stuart said, "and during the next week we contacted one of the workers. The next weekend we arranged to meet her and we got to know each other better." As a result of engaging in this solidarity effort, he said, information was obtained for articles in the *Militant* and several dozen copies of the paper were sold, including a six-month subscription.

Two Caterpillar workers from Peoria, Illinois, who spoke on the panel at the forum welcomed Stuart's suggestion that they get to Spring Hill too to share the experience of their long struggle against their employer.

Many local fights were described at the seven meetings. Dan Fein, a meatpacker in Atlanta, described a slowdown at work one Saturday when the bosses attempted to squeeze eight hours' production out of



Worker-bolsheviks in seven unions from across the country discussed the need to engage in activity with others where struggles break out, such as the recent strikes at General Motors in Flint, Michigan, (above) and the strike authorization vote by auto workers at Saturn in Spring Hill, Tennessee (left).



Militant/Rich Stuart

workers in six hours.

Maggie Trowe, who works at a packinghouse in Marshalltown, Iowa, reported that workers had forced the company to provide a bus from Des Moines to the plant. More recently, however, the bosses are trying to get rid of the bus, and the workers have been protesting this through the union.

Greg McCartan, a garment worker in Boston, described how workers at Sterlingwear, a factory that produces coats for the U.S. military, were inspired by the transit workers strike in Philadelphia and organized to send a message and a financial contribution to the strikers.

Gale Shangold a garment worker in Los Angeles, reported that workers at Hollander Home Fashions joined a protest by meatpacking workers at a nearby plant who are fighting to be organized into the UFCW.

Shangold also reported on several struggles of textile workers in the South, including organizing victories at Tultex in North Carolina and two Levi-Strauss plants in Texas and Kentucky. The National Labor Relations Board has called for a new vote at the giant Fieldcrest-Cannon textile complex in Kannapolis, North Carolina. In response to these developments the meeting of socialist workers in UNITE decided to help organize a team to North Carolina to meet some of the fighters and reestablish contact with unionists there who communists knew when there was a branch of the Socialist Workers Party in Greensboro.

At the Hexcel plant in Seattle, Nan Bailey reported, members of a union women's committee have been fighting a company attack on flexible hours needed to make it possible for them to arrange childcare. Committee members have also organized support for strikers at the nearby Jet Tool plant. Bailey reported that the committee meets once a week. She said the formation and activity

of this committee is part of the broader pressure on the IAM officialdom to respond to the growing pressure on workers. Bailey urged participants in the meeting to probe the possibility that similar committees exist in other cities.

Bosses' counteroffensive

The meetings of union activists also discussed that side by side with workers' resistance is the counteroffensive of the bosses who can't and won't give up. Bailey explained that this was shown most starkly on July 1 when the growers in Watsonville, California, sent goons to beat up strawberry pickers who are organizing into the United Farm Workers. Along with this physical intimidation the employers have organized a pro-company "union," which is being counterposed to the UFW.

A union-busting outfit in the airlines known as the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA), Bailey said, is cranking up a similar counteroffensive. Just days before the contract vote at Northwest, AMFA announced it had collected enough cards from Northwest mechanics to call for a vote on whether they wanted to split from the IAM and join AMFA. And at United Airlines, just as 19,000 workers joined the union, AMFA opened up a drive for a similar election.

Participants in the meeting discussed how socialist workers can most effectively help push back the AMFA attack. Ernie Mailhot, a shipyard worker in Miami who was a leader of the Eastern Airlines strike a decade ago, emphasized the need to expose AMFA's false claim that it is a craft union. "AMFA should not be characterized as a union of any kind, but as a union-busting outfit that poses a mortal threat to workers' ability to fight the airline companies," Mailhot said.

"AMFA has been around since the early 1960s and it has never had anything to do with unionism. It does not participate in strikes or other union battles. Instead it does the work of the companies by sowing divisions among workers as they go into battle."

During the joint session in Chicago, several participants explained the significance of the struggles of Black farmers and the importance of working-class fighters link-

Continued on Page 14

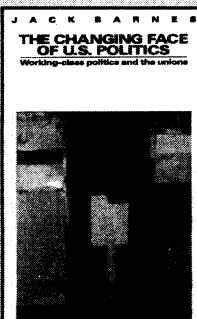
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'Tear down wall dividing Korea!'

International youth delegation visits Democratic People's Republic of Korea

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

PYONGYANG, Korea — "We strongly demand that the concrete wall dividing the land on which the Korean people have lived together in harmony generation after generation be dismantled without any delay," said Toshio Ishimatsu, a representative of the Socialist Youth League of Japan.

He was reading an "Appeal to the Progressive Youth and Students of the World" at a solidarity rally of 3,000 people here July 23. The meeting was organized by the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League. Kim Il Sung was the general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) until he died in 1994. "Korea's unification is the common desire of the Korean nation," the statement said. "We demand the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. soldiers and their nuclear weapons from south Korea!"

The appeal was issued by a 13-member fact finding delegation that visited the DPRK July 18-25 on the initiative of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY). It included representatives of youth organizations from Austria, Brazil, Cuba, Greece, India, Japan, Mongolia, Russia, Syria, and the United States. Another six people, representing youth and other groups from Libya who planned to take part in the trip, arrived in Pyongyang July 24. They said it took them five days to get to Korea through three countries because of the embargo on air travel and other sanctions the United Nations has imposed on Libya, at Washington's initiative, since 1992.

"The maintenance of the concrete wall our delegation observed is part of the effort by the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean government to make the artificial division of Korea permanent," said Singh Harchand, general secretary of WFDY and a leader of the All India Democratic Youth Federation, in his remarks to the rally. "We will leave no stone unturned to win all the progressive students and youth to join the fight for Korea's reunification."

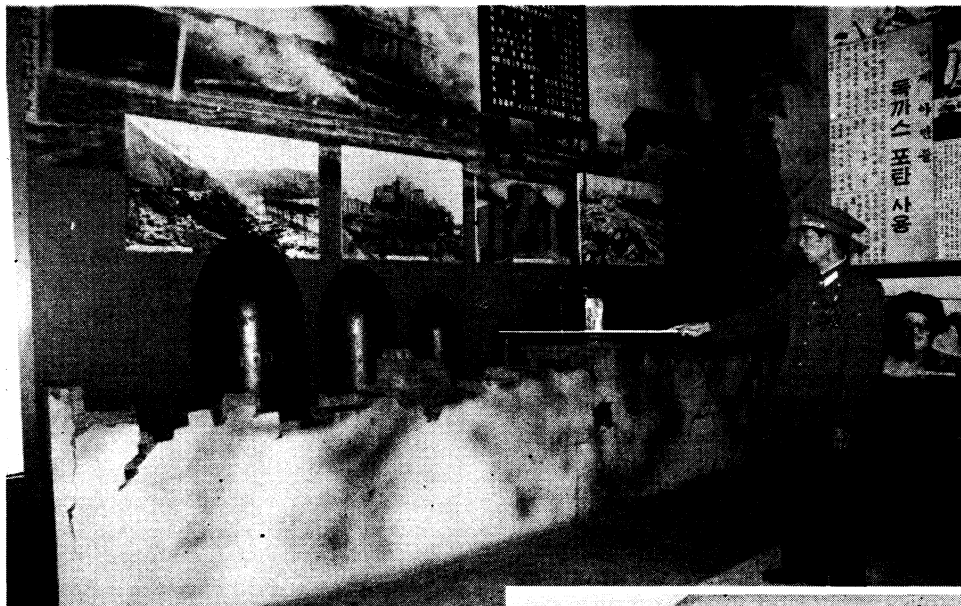
In his remarks to the rally, Ri Il Hwan, first secretary of the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League, pointed to a five-point policy for reunifying Korea, explained in a letter by Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea, in April. This includes rejecting reliance on and interference by foreign powers, promoting national unity through recognition and respect for the two different social systems in the northern and southern parts of the peninsula, and cooperation with all social layers in the south — including businessmen and army officers — who support unification without dependence on U.S. troops. He also stated that prospects for improving north-south relations are not great at the moment because of Seoul's and Washington's stance.

'We're not afraid of imperialists'

"U.S. forces continue to stage military maneuvers with their south Korean puppet troops — the infamous 'Rimpac' exercises — thus bringing the Korean peninsula to the brink of war," said Ri Il Hwan. "We do not want war, but we are not afraid of it either, in any way. They should remember we have already defeated two imperialist enemies — Japan and the U.S.A."

Speaking on behalf of the leadership of the Young Socialists in the United States, Samantha Kern pointed to actions for Puerto Rican independence in the United States and Puerto Rico that would take place two days after the Pyongyang rally. "Many Puerto Ricans have been in the forefront of the fight against U.S. imperialism," Kern said. "During the Korean War tens of thousands of young Puerto Ricans who were drafted in the U.S. army refused to join and go kill their brothers and sisters in Korea and serve as cannon fodder for Yankee imperialism."

About 100,000 in Puerto Rico violated the draft law passed by Congress in 1948 and 28.5 percent of those eligible refused to register for conscription. The new rise of the Puerto Rican independence movement is taking place as U.S. imperialism weakens and coincides with a pick up in the class struggle inside the United States. Pointing to the strike against General Motors by auto



Militant photos by Argiris Malapanis

Kim Sang Hun, a retired general of the Korean People's Army, shows youth leaders from around the world shells of bombs dropped by U.S. planes on Korea during 1950-53 war led by Washington, displayed in the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum in Pyongyang (above). U.S. forces dropped four times more napalm bombs on Korea than those used in World War II, virtually leveling most of the northern part. On July 21, the youth delegation visited the demarcation line dividing Korea at Panmunjom, where U.S. and south Korean troops can be seen on the south side (right).

workers and struggles by strawberry pickers against company goons in Watsonville, California, the YS leader said, "It is these fighters that are among the best allies of the Korean people in your struggle for reunification of your country and for the removal of the 40,000 U.S. troops."

Given Washington's role over the past half century in instigating and maintaining the partition of this country, class-conscious workers, farmers, and youth in the United States, especially, have an obligation to learn what the U.S. government has done to Korea and win others to energetically oppose it. Kern said the Young Socialists will continue their efforts to do precisely that.

Other speakers included Iraklis Tsaldaridis of the Communist Youth of Greece; Raoul Narodoslavsky, president of Kinderland, the pioneers group of the Communist Party of Austria; Christiano Aristimunha Pinto of the October 8 Revolutionary Youth of Brazil; and Argiris Malapanis of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States.

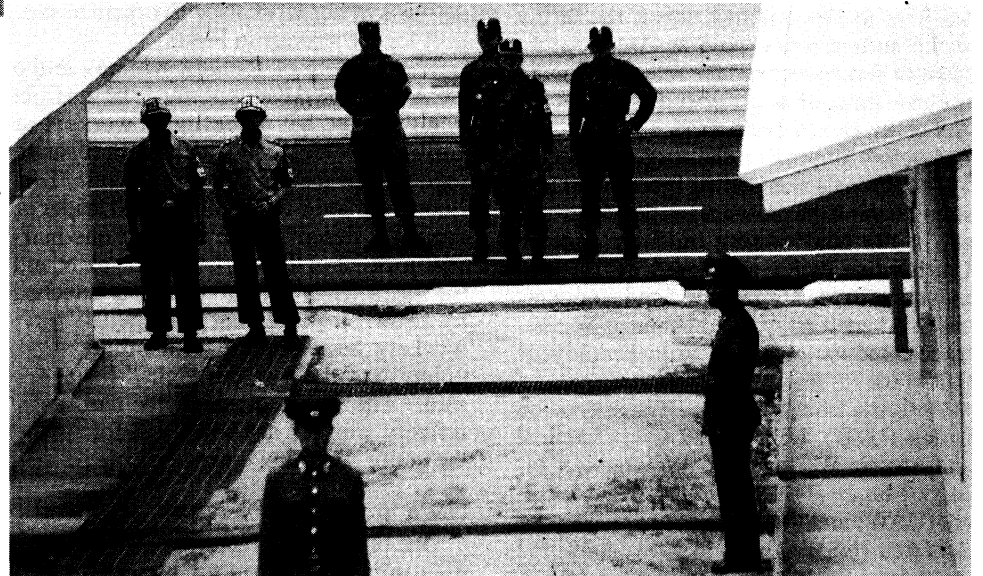
The delegates who did not address the rally spoke at a press conference the next day. Nirsia Castro Guevara, political consul at the Cuban embassy in the DPRK, noted the common struggle by the Korean and Cuban people against U.S. imperialism and spoke to the press about her government's unconditional support to the fight to end Korea's division. Pointing to the spreading depression conditions in the south, she said, "It is capitalism, not communism, that is in crisis. Socialism, far from having been dealt a mortal blow, is more relevant today than ever and presents the only alternative to humanity."

José Ramón Rodríguez, representing the Union of Young Communists of Cuba, and others spoke of the activities of the fact-finding delegation during the week-long stay.

Visit to Liberation War Museum

One of the most interesting visits was the two hours the delegation spent July 20 at the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum in Pyongyang and a meeting at the end with two retired generals of the Korean People's Army who fought against U.S. troops in the Korean War. The museum is a quite large but modest looking building. It was first opened in 1953 and then rebuilt and expanded by soldiers in 1974. It has more than 80 rooms on two floors. The delegation was only able to visit a handful and could have spent two days or more there. It tells more of the real story of the Korean War than any museum, monument, or movies ever released in the United States.

"Here you can see how the Korean people



defeated two enemies — the Japanese and U.S. imperialists — in one generation," said retired Gen. Kim Sang Hun, who showed the delegation around.

The museum includes exhibits on the struggle against Japanese colonial rule. Korea increasingly came under Japanese domination at the beginning of this century and was formally annexed by Japan in 1910.

Koreans were dispossessed of their land and natural resources. Stolen land was sold cheaply to Japanese landlords. The Japanese occupation forces suppressed the Korean language and place names, and forced observation of the Shinto religion as opposed to Buddhism and other religions practiced in Korea. Peasants deprived of their land were forcibly conscripted into the Japanese army or taken against their will to Japan as laborers in mines, on construction sites, and in munitions factories. By the end of World War II, 2.1 million Koreans, or 10 percent of the country's population, had been removed to Japan. This included 360,000 conscripts in the Japanese army and 170,000 Korean women who were forced to accompany the army as prostitutes, officially known as "military comfort women."

Korea remained under Japanese domination until the end of the second world imperialist slaughter, when Japanese forces surrendered. During the years of Japanese colonial rule a significant independence movement developed. On March 1, 1919, 2 million Koreans took part in peaceful rallies across the country, during which the Japanese authorities arrested thousands and killed or wounded 8,000. Other mass protests followed. They were combined with an armed guerrilla struggle based in the area along the Korean-Chinese border.

Tokyo's surrender to its imperialist rival in Washington on August 15, 1945, sparked a massive social upheaval throughout Korea. "People's committees" spread throughout the countryside and cities — uniting forces that had been active in the anticolonial struggle — and began to assume control of many areas. A wave of union organizing swept through the factories and other workplaces, and organizations of peasants, women, and youth sprang up. On Sept. 6, 1945, the Korean People's Republic was proclaimed in Seoul. The new government had close links to the people's committees. It called for an independent Korea; radical

land reform; nationalization of factories, mines, and railways; universal suffrage for men and women over 18; an eight-hour day and other prolabor measures; freedom of speech, assembly, and religion; and compulsory elementary education.

Aiming to block these anti-imperialist and anticapitalist mobilizations, the U.S. government landed its troops in Korea. They arrived in Seoul on September 8, two days after the new government had been announced there.

Washington instigates Korea's division

On display at the museum were many secret U.S. documents captured by the Korean People's Army during the 1950-53 war, including initial orders by U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur. MacArthur declared he would accept the surrender of Japanese

forces south of the 38th parallel. He announced U.S. military control of south Korea and made English the official language in that part of the country in a Sept. 7, 1945, proclamation. On November 2 of that year, the U.S.-imposed military government decreed that all laws established by the hated Japanese occupiers would be enforced in the south. The laws put in place by the people's committees were annulled and the committees violently repressed by the authorities.

The U.S. rulers feared that a victory by the workers and peasants there would not only push back Washington's interests in Korea. It would hasten the day when working people of neighboring China — where a revolutionary struggle was under way against the dictatorial regime of Chiang Kai-shek — would also get rid of imperialist domination and exploitation.

In their effort to deny Korea's right to national self-determination, the U.S. rulers secured the de facto cooperation of the regime headed by Joseph Stalin, which had usurped power from the working class in a political counterrevolution in the late 1920s and 1930s in the Soviet Union. Moscow agreed to accept Tokyo's surrender north of the 38th parallel and sent its troops there. The U.S. and Soviet governments had already tacitly agreed on the division of Korea into two spheres of influence.

Hundreds of thousands of Korean workers, peasants, and youth refused to go along with the deal, however. A major rebellion against the "Made in America" regime occurred in the south in 1946. The revolt was crushed by U.S. and south Korean troops and right-wing thugs organized by the puppet government in Seoul. But a guerrilla movement developed once again. Between 1945 and 1950, about 100,000 Koreans who participated in strikes, peasant protests, and armed resistance were killed in the south.

In northern Korea, the Soviet forces recognized the existence of the people's committees, which soon became the foundation of a new government. By the end of 1946, landlord domination had been broken and land redistributed to tenant farmers and other toilers in the countryside who needed land. The mines and other industrial enterprises were nationalized. On Sept. 9, 1948, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was founded in the north — a workers state where capitalist social relations had been



Militant/Argiris Malapanis

Young Socialists leader Samantha Kern (above, looking through binoculars) and others on youth delegation to Korea look at concrete wall built by south Korean troops and their U.S. protectors in 1977, shown on right. On the right of Kern is Lt. Gen. Kan Ho Sop, in charge of that Korean People's Army post on north side of the Demilitarized Zone.



Korean People's Army Publishing House

abolished. From that moment on, its government, headed by Kim Il Sung, declared its determination to win unification of the country. During this period, tens of thousands of Koreans in the north fought alongside the revolutionary forces in China's civil war battling the imperialist-backed Chiang Kai-shek, whose government was overthrown in October 1949.

By the time the Soviet troops pulled out of the DPRK in late 1948, and most U.S. troops in June 1949, the division of the country was becoming institutionalized. The two governments were based on two conflicting social systems with different class interests and property relations. A U.S. military advisory group remained to supervise the forces of the regime in the south. Resistance to the puppet government of Syngman Rhee and to U.S. domination mounted there, including within the south Korean army.

"On March 7, 1949, at age 23, I was part of a rebellion in my army unit in the Hon Chon area of south Korea," said Kan Tae Mu, now a retired general of the Korean People's Army (KPA). He spoke to members of the fact-finding delegation at the end of the visit to the Liberation War Museum. Kan, a company commander in 1949, led dozens of fellow soldiers to desert Rhee's armed forces, cross the 38th parallel to the north, and join the KPA. He said many similar revolts took place at the time, especially in the areas of south Korea near the 38th parallel. Many were drowned in blood. In May 1949 the crew of a south Korean navy ship defected to the DPRK, with the vessel.

"I had joined the army when I was 19," Kan said. "At the beginning I was loyal to Seoul. My company took part in the military parade during Syngman Rhee's inauguration as president. I remember MacArthur on the reviewing stand. Soon we discovered that the government was simply a puppet of the U.S. forces that intended to maintain the division of the country and possibly invade the north to dominate Korea in its entirety." His disillusionment began at a meeting with high-ranking officers of the U.S. and south Korean armies in 1948 where plans for an attack on north Korea were discussed, he said.

1950-53 Korean War

Among the documents on display at the museum was an operational map drawn up by the U.S. military showing plans for an invasion of the northern half of Korea. "It was the south Korean puppet army and their U.S. superiors that launched an attack on June 25, 1950," Gen. Kim Sang Hun told the delegation. The Korean People's Army soon crossed the 38th parallel and its forces entered Seoul within three days, rapidly liberating 90 percent of Korean territory. In areas where Rhee's troops were routed, the KPA instituted land reform, a measure the impoverished peasants welcomed.

The Democratic administration of President Harry Truman claimed the movement of soldiers from north to the south was a "communist invasion." Truman used this as a pretext to send large numbers of troops, ships, planes, and tanks to try to smash the DPRK army and regain control of part of Korea and then of the entire peninsula. Washington cloaked this assault on Korea's sovereignty in the blue flag of the United Nations, under the auspices of the UN Security Council and with the participation of troops from 15 other countries. But the U.S. armed forces made up the decisive majority of the so-called UN forces waging the war.

Washington failed to deal a decisive blow to the Korean People's Army but was able to push its troops to the Yalu river, which borders China. The new workers and farmers government in China sent massive numbers of volunteer troops to the aid of their Korean brothers and sisters. By the end of 1952, 1.2 million Chinese troops were engaged in the war and some 900,000 Chinese volunteers fell in battle during the fighting.

"The security of China itself was threatened," Gen. Kim Sang Hun told the visitors. "The involvement of the Chinese volunteers helped us defeat the imperialist invaders." By the middle of 1953, Korean forces fought the U.S. troops to a stalemate at roughly the 38th parallel.

U.S. atrocities and defeat

Washington and its allies carried out large-scale bombing of the country, especially the northern part, to force working people to give up — to no avail.

More than 428,000 bombs were dropped on Pyongyang alone — a city whose pre-war population was 400,000 — virtually flattening it. Pilots bombed five of the 20 major dams in the north, causing massive flooding and loss of civilian lives. The only reason U.S. and allied forces didn't destroy all the dams was because they feared an international outcry against the indiscriminate death and destruction that would result.

The Korean War was even unpopular among the majority of working people in the United States, despite the anticommunist hysteria and witch-hunting that both Democratic and Republican politicians were attempting to whip up in those years.

According to museum exhibits more than 717 million pounds of napalm — jellied gasoline — was dropped on Korea, more than four times the amount used in World War II and a harbinger of what the Pentagon carried out in Vietnam 10 years later.

The public television documentary *Korea: The Unknown War*, aired in the United States in 1990, showed Sen. John Glenn describing this as the "nape scrape." U.S. forces used tactical air power to scrape entire sections of the population off the face of the earth with giant sheets of flaming napalm. Glenn, who was a Marine in the war, said the U.S. bombing command stated by the end they had literally no more targets left in north Korea; everything they could see from the air, including huts, had been leveled. A segment of the documentary — shown earlier in Britain but cut from the U.S. version — cited historian Bruce Cumings stating that both Truman and MacArthur had wanted to extend the war into China.

A number of the bombs did not explode and caused deaths for years to come during clean-up operations. Bomb shells and photos of the devastation the U.S. assault caused could be seen at the museum. Also on display were dozens of the insects U.S. forces employed to carry out biological warfare.

The estimated deaths were 4 million Koreans in a nation of 30 million in 1950, including 2 million civilians and 500,000 troops in the north. Fifty-four thousand U.S. troops were killed among 5.7 million used.

In addition to this visit and other meetings where discussion focused on the Korean War, the delegation had a chance to see a couple of documentary films that showed footage of the tenacious resistance of the Korean people. One, titled "The U.S. imperialists are the no. 1 enemy of the Korean people," focused on the 1945-50 period.

The other showed resistance during the war in the rear guard. Footage included scenes of entire textile and ammunition factories operating underground, mostly staffed by women, as U.S. bombers were destroying the country's industry and infrastructure.

The wall dividing Korea

On July 27, 1953, U.S. generals were forced to sign an armistice agreement with the DPRK. The country was divided at roughly the 38th parallel, and a 2.5-mile wide Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) was set up across the peninsula. Thousands of U.S. and Korean troops patrol both sides of the DMZ because a state of war still exists. Washington and Seoul have refused to sign a peace treaty. The U.S. government maintains over 40,000 troops in south Korea to this day and a massive arsenal of weaponry, including nuclear weapons, on 40 military sites.

Panmunjom is the village on the dividing line where the two sides meet. The building where the armistice treaty was signed is now a museum. "The U.S. aggressors knelt down before the Korean people right here," said Lt. Col. Kim Sun Nam who showed the delegation around on the morning of July 21. "U.S. generals wanted to sign the treaty in open air, on a tank or a ship. We said no. The place of their capitulation must have a physical presence in history. In five days, 200 soldiers of the Korean People's Army built this structure."

The entire DMZ is a very tense area. When the delegation arrived at Panmunjom, six U.S. soldiers quickly came on the scene taking photos and videotaping the visitors. The GIs initially outnumbered the south Korean troops. As everyone on the delegation began taking pictures of their own, the U.S. soldiers melted in the background and were replaced by more south Korean guards. Within 10 minutes, only one U.S. officer could be seen.

Later that day, at an observation post on the north side of the DMZ, the concrete wall dividing Korea could be seen through military binoculars. The heavily fortified wall was built by the south Korean government in 1977 with the aid of their U.S. protectors. It is 16-26 feet tall and 33-62 feet thick at its base. It runs across the entire length of the Korean peninsula, 150 miles, on the south side of the demarcation line. By comparison, the Berlin Wall that divided that

German city was 26.5 miles long.

Looked at from the south, the wall is not visible. It is covered by dirt and vegetation, giving the appearance of a hill. "It's part of the south Korean authorities' campaign to deny its existence or minimize its impact in the eyes of the world as a physical barrier to unification of the country," said Kim Chung Song, a translator and member of the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League.

When the atmosphere is clear the wall can be seen clearly from the north side through binoculars, about 2.5 miles away. The south Korean posts have huge slogans painted on them. "Come to south Korea: 45 days holidays, freedom to travel, welfare," read the ones on the post directly across. This sounds more bitterly mocking each month as depression conditions worsen in south Korea.

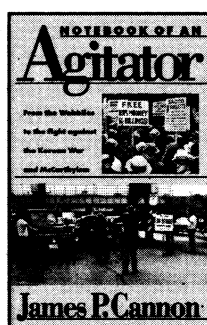
Later, as the authorities on the other side figured out that visitors on the north were looking at them, they turned on their loudspeakers with Korean and U.S. music — including the finale to the "William Tell Overture" — and slogans in Korean and probably in English. The way the wind was blowing that afternoon made it hard to hear what they were saying. Lt. General Kan Ho Sop, in charge of that KPA post, who gave everyone an explanation of how the wall was built, said the loudspeakers are turned on regularly every day for several hours. The main message is about the evils of communism, the virtues of capitalism, and invitations to "defect to south Korea."

José Ramón Rodríguez of the UJC from Cuba told everyone a story of a previous delegation of Cubans who had visited the same spot. The south Koreans and their superiors from the United States began broadcasting slogans against Cuba, saying that communism is collapsing there as it will soon in north Korea. "They wish!" Rodríguez said with a laugh.

"The maintenance of the wall shows their weakness," said Kan Ho Sop in an interview. "It gives the lie to their so-called freedom to travel. Tell young people in the United States about it. It's a good reason why they should refuse to become cannon fodder for the imperialist army. It's a good reason why they should join our fight to tear it down and to unify Korea."

Samantha Kern, a YS member in San Francisco, contributed to this article.

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"The explosion in Korea on June 25, [1950] as events have proved, expressed the profound desire of the Koreans themselves to unify their country, to rid themselves of foreign dominations, and to win their complete national independence.... On the one side are the Korean workers, peasants, and student youth. On the other are Korean landlords, users, capitalists, and their police and political agents. The impoverished and exploited working masses have risen up to drive out the native parasites as well as their foreign protectors."

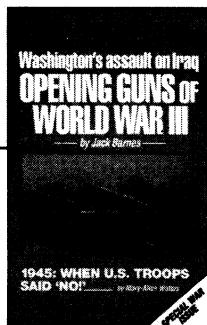
— Cannon to U.S. president Harry Truman, 1950.

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Native land treaty in British Columbia sparks controversy

BY PAUL KOURI

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — A new treaty negotiated by the governments of Canada, British Columbia, and the Nisga'a Tribal Council has become a flash point for opposition to Native rights, with a range of politicians claiming it will grant "special privileges" to Native Indians.

B.C. Liberal leader Gordon Campbell said he opposes the deal because it is "entrenches inequality.... I think when you set up a racially based government, that is a recipe for significant long-term problems." Campbell is also calling for a referendum in which everyone in the province would vote on the treaty. Signed on August 4 at an official ceremony in Nisga'a territory, the treaty will be voted on by the Nisga'a population as well as by the parliaments of Canada and British Columbia over the coming months.

Reflection of decades-long struggle

While the treaty falls far short of the historical demands of the Nisga'a, the fact that Canadian authorities felt compelled to sign it reflects the decades-long struggle of the Nisga'a and battles by Native people throughout Canada for their rights. The Nisga'a were confined to a reserve of 76 square kilometers and deprived of their most basic rights under the racist Indian Act of Canada and by the Province of British Columbia at its founding in 1870. The treaty grants them title to 2,000 square kilometers, about 10 percent of their traditional lands in Northwestern British Columbia, where an estimated 8,000 Nisga'a lived off salmon from the Nass River before contact with the Europeans.

Today, some 2,000 Nisga'a continue to live in the area. Despite rich resources in minerals, forestry, salmon, and a growing tourist industry, the large majority of Nisga'a are unemployed, and many live in substandard, overcrowded housing. About 3,500 Nisga'a are now living elsewhere in the province, as well as in Alaska and other parts of Canada.

A minority of Nisga'a oppose the deal because it gives up claim on land they and their ancestors have always lived on. Seven of them were refused an injunction July 31 to stop the deal from going ahead.

The Gitanyow, a neighboring band, also oppose the treaty because it grants the Nisga'a title to land that is presently being claimed by the Gitanyow in a court case.

The treaty provides the Nisga'a with a Native-run local government, where elected Nisga'a will take over ownership and management of the land and resources as well as social services, education, policing, and the courts — within the confines of Canadian and British Columbia laws. Some \$190 million in cash will be provided over 10 years. In exchange, the Nisga'a will pay taxes and recognize the terms of the treaty as the final settlement of Nisga'a aboriginal rights.

The demand that Native people give up all future claims for land and resources when they sign treaties has been central to the strategy pursued by Canada's ruling rich in negotiating land claims with Native people. Native Canadians have mobilized themselves and others through petitions, rallies, road blockades, and other actions to defend their constitutionally recognized aboriginal rights. These fighters have sometimes succeeded in preventing forestry, mining, and other capitalists from encroaching on their land without their consent. In several cases they have succeeded in obtaining court injunctions to back up these demands.

Rulers try to limit land claims

This is of major concern to the bosses in the forest and mining industries here in this province. Most of the 140,000 Native inhabitants here have never signed treaties, unlike in the rest of Canada. In 1993, the British Columbia government, in an effort to resolve these outstanding claims, established the B.C. Treaty Commission. Although the Nisga'a have been negotiating outside that process, provincial premier Glen Clark characterized the Nisga'a treaty as "a template"

Rally in Houston protests cop killing



"Killer cops to jail for life!" chanted around 100 people who rallied July 26 to protest the killing of Pedro Oregón, 22 years old, in Houston. Cops involved in the special unit Gang Task Force were allegedly performing an antidrug operation. "Pedro was sleeping when the police arrived. They broke down the door to get in the apartment," said Reynalda Espinosa, a neighbor and an acquaintance of the Oregón family. The police, who reportedly did not have a warrant, unloaded 30 shots, 12 of which struck Oregón. A new coalition, "Justice for Pedro Oregón" has initiated another protest to be held August 17 in front of the prosecutor's office to demand that the six cops involved be charged in the killing.

for the other 51 Native Indian organizations negotiating treaties in British Columbia. About one-third of Native organizations in the province refuse to participate in the Treaty Commission Process.

"The overriding concern has been whether the treaty would extinguish any possibility of the Nisga'a coming back for more," said a July 17 editorial in the big-business daily *Vancouver Sun*. "Based on what Mr. Clark says, it appears to provide the necessary certainty."

Along with welcoming this aspect of the treaty, the media has helped fuel the racist campaign against the treaty led by the B.C. Liberal Party and the Reform Party of Canada. A July 24 editorial in Canada's major capitalist daily, the *Globe and Mail*, complains, "There will be things in the agreement that offend many, such as the legally sanctioned inequality of non-aboriginals on Nisga'a territory, or the huge implied costs to settle all outstanding land claims [across Canada]." The editorial also raises concern over the fact that the treaty establishes "an aboriginal justice system and racially based self-government."

Michael Scott, Member of Parliament of the right-wing Reform Party of Canada for the Skeena riding, which overlaps Nisga'a territory, said his party "unequivocally opposes" the treaty, adding that it is undemocratic and divisive. Pointing to the fact that the treaty grants the Nisga'a control over the fishery on their territory, he argued that if that deal is repeated in all the land claims it will freeze out non-Native commercial and sports fishermen.

The Reform Party has been at the forefront of the reactionary campaign by the Fishermen's Survival Coalition in opposing the fishing rights won by Native people in British Columbia. For many Natives salmon still plays a central role in their diet and culture, as well as a means of earning a living. Over the past month, fishermen from the Musqueam and Sto:lo Nations along the Fraser River successfully challenged attempts by the Canadian Department of Fisheries to stop them from fishing while allowing sports fishing to continue.

Paul Kouri is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 2952.

Strikers return to work at one Quebec paper mill

BY GRANT HARGRAVE AND SEBASTIEN DESAUTELES

SHAWINIGAN, Quebec — More than 4,000 paperworkers, members of the Communication, Energy and Paperworkers union (CEP), are continuing their strike against Abitibi-Consolidated, following the return to work by unionists at one of the company's plants. The strike began June 15 and involves workers in Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland. The central issue is the unionists' refusal to accept the company's demand to negotiate on a plant-by-plant basis.

On July 27 the members of CEP Local

216, which represents the majority of production workers at Abitibi-Consolidated's Wayagamack mill, voted 235 to 157 to return to work. The same day CEP Local 222, which includes the paper machine operators at the mill, announced they had, a week earlier, voted 133 to 11 in favor of returning to work.

The reopening of the Wayagamack mill in Trois-Rivières, Quebec, followed an intense campaign by the company, which threatened to close the plant permanently if the workers did not return to work. Local media and capitalist politicians joined in to put pressure on the unionists. Abitibi-Consolidated has been threatening to close the plant for years. The day after the vote, plant manager Jean-Luc Pellerin was interviewed on television. Asked if the future of the plant was now assured, he responded, "It is something that we have to look at day by day."

Strikers picketing the mills in Grand-Mère and Shawinigan, just north of Trois-Rivières, the day after the Wayagamack votes were announced, spoke of the intense pressure on the Wayagamack workers.

Denis Carrière, a striking paper machine operator at Shawinigan, said, "The company won a battle, but they haven't won the war." Carrière went on to say that he "would be surprised if the strike lasted less than six months." Workers on the picket lines report that the Wayagamack mill was a special case, and they expect strikers at the remaining 10 mills will be able to maintain their united front against the company.

Gilles Sicotte, a striker and union official at Grand-Mère, said the strike is not about wages, it is simply to force the company to negotiate. He added that each Abitibi-Consolidated plant produces about 5 percent of the company's output, so it would be very easy for the company "to take us on, one by one, and we would lose."

Abitibi-Consolidated is the world's largest newsprint producer and its biggest paper exporter. The strike affects close to half its total production. The contract signed with Abitibi is expected to serve as a pattern for 20,000 other paperworkers in eastern Canada.

Grant Hargrave is a member of the International Association of Machinists. Sébastien Desautels is a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees and the Young Socialists. Annette Kouri also contributed to this article.

Pittsburgh cops let off in Jonny Gammage killing

BY EDWIN FRUIT

PITTSBURGH — More than 50 people picketed in front of the Allegheny County Courthouse July 30 to condemn the decision of a Pennsylvania state judge to dismiss manslaughter charges against two cops involved in the killing of Jonny Gammage.

Gammage died at the hands of five suburban cops after his car was pulled over on October 12, 1995. Of the five, one was acquitted, two have gone through two trials, both ending in mistrials, and two were never charged.

A week earlier, Pittsburgh NAACP president Tim Stevens spoke at a July 23 press conference at the organization's headquarters.

Stevens read a statement which in part said, "Judge Joseph F. McCloskey's opinion in the cases against Milton Mulholland and Michael Albert is an affront to African-Americans, and to all those persons, regardless of race, who have been our partners in the quest for justice in the death of Jonny Gammage.... All of the involved parties should take note that the NAACP is not satisfied. What we seek is the pursuit of justice. We must all still remember that a black man died at the hands of five well armed

white police officers in what should have been a 'routine traffic stop.' That reality is an unacceptable reality!"

At the rally, representatives of the Campus Coalition for Peace and Justice, Pittsburgh Urban League, Citizens for Police Accountability, the Socialist Workers Campaign, and others spoke.

Dorothy Urquhart of the United Concerned Christians at Work was among the speakers who called for the Justice Department to file civil rights charges against all five cops in the case.

Over the last year busloads of activists from Pittsburgh and Syracuse, New York, Gammage's home town, have rallied and met with representatives from the Justice Department in Washington, D.C., demanding action from the federal government.

The Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette* reported on July 31 that District Attorney Stephan A. Zappala Jr. would not appeal the ruling of Judge McCloskey, thus bringing to a close any further local prosecutions in the case.

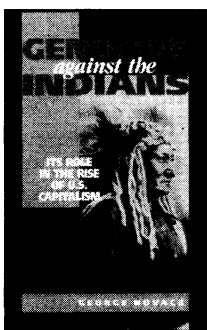
Edwin Fruit is a member of the International Association of Machinists and the Campus Coalition for Peace and Justice.

FROM PATHFINDER

GENOCIDE AGAINST THE INDIANS

GEORGE NOVACK

Why did the leaders of the Europeans who settled in North America try to exterminate the peoples already living there? How was the campaign of genocide against the Indians linked to the expansion of capitalism in the United States? Noted Marxist George Novack answers these questions. \$4.00



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.

Bell Atlantic phone workers prepare for possible strike

Continued from front page
out taking a breath" as one worker put it.

Quite a few workers at the Jamaica facility and another center in Harlem identified with the resistance other workers are mounting to attacks on labor. They followed the GM strike closely.

Several took note of the recent strike of telephone workers in Puerto Rico against the sale of the telephone company to U.S.-owned GTE, pointing to the power of a united labor movement that was demonstrated in the general strike that shut the country down for two days.

The last strike by CWA members here was in 1989 at NYNEX, which has since been bought by Bell Atlantic. Some 200,000 workers walked out at four regional telephone carriers in August of that year. The other companies settled relatively quickly, but the strike at NYNEX lasted 16 weeks,

and one worker was killed on the picket line, struck by a car driven by a scab.

Bell Atlantic workers in New York and other cities have held "practice" picket lines in the weeks leading up to the contract expiration.

"We have been mobilizing our membership since early last year," said Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 1105 secretary Bea Braun. She said every Thursday workers wear red to show union solidarity. The contract covers sales representatives, installation workers, repairmen, operators, and telemarketing representatives.

Meanwhile, CWA members at BellSouth Corp. voted 93 percent in favor of authorizing a strike if there is no settlement there by August 8 when the contract covering 48,000 workers expires. The central issues, according to union officials, include forced



The last time the telephone workers went on strike was in 1989 at NYNEX, which has since been bought by Bell Atlantic. Above, striking phone workers rally in New York in August 1989.

overtime, wages, and pensions. Another CWA contract with US West Inc., which covers 36,000 phone workers, expires August 15.

Wendy Lyons is a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees. Rose Ana Berbeo contributed to this article.

Teamsters demand UPS hire full-time, fulfill contract

BY DAN FEIN

ATLANTA — Members of Teamsters Local 728 at the United Parcel Service (UPS) facilities in Atlanta rallied July 31 to protest the employer's refusal to put more part-time workers on full-time. Similar actions took place across the country.

More full-time jobs was the central issue in the 15-day nationwide strike against UPS a year ago, which won widespread sympathy among working people. Through the strike, the union won a pledge by UPS to create 10,000 more full-time jobs from the

ranks of the part-timers over five years. The company now claims that because the volume of business is down and they have laid off workers, they are not bound to create the full-time jobs.

At the Pleasantdale facility and the Atlanta Hub facility, the Teamsters set up tents with literature tables on the issues and served refreshments. Workers came to the tents on their way to and from work to protest UPS's not living up to the contract. One flyer distributed by the union says "UPS has been cutting driver jobs through attrition. It has

reduced the need for drivers by delaying deliveries to residential areas that are less profitable. It is also pressuring drivers to work more forced overtime and work through lunch."

Ken Hyde, a full-time driver with UPS for 19 years, told this reporter, "They claim volume is down, so they don't have to create full-time jobs, but there is no way the union can disprove this. The company is trying to take it out on us for our strike last year. They want to make it as miserable as possible for us."

Rod Jacks, a driver and union steward at the Pleasantdale facility said, "UPS is saying the package volume is not there, but profits are up substantially. Before the strike there was some leniency regarding work rules, but now policies are in full effect. There have been incidents of targeting people. Some people on the inside are urging to go back out on strike."

Robert Wood, who works at the Pleasantdale facility, said, "In Pleasantdale alone there are 25 jobs where people are working two shifts — more than nine hours a day — but the company refuses to make them full-time. These are called combination jobs. Their pay would increase from \$9.50 per hour to \$15 per hour immediately. They are now only getting 20 hours vacation per year instead of 45 if they were full-time."

Local 728, which has around 8,000 members, organized its members to wear a large button saying, "Respect our Contract. Create 10,000 Full-Time Jobs." The local is also filing grievances by part-time members who have asked to bid into full-time positions.

Dan Fein is a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers and the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in Georgia. Jill Fein contributed to this article.

Anheuser-Busch workers vote 'no' to contract

BY LEA SHERMAN

HOUSTON — In April, the 8,000 Teamsters who work at 12 Anheuser-Busch breweries voted to reject a concession contract, with 77 percent opposed. Voting on an almost identical proposal in July, the unionists rejected it again nationally, with a 54 percent no vote.

"The company used deceptive methods to divide us. They used these referendums; they used a NLRB [National Labor Relations Board] decision; they used a mediator. They kept wearing us down," said Michael O'Donnell, a lab technician in Houston who has worked here for 18 years.

"We're fed up and frustrated. We gave three authorizations to strike. We lost our prime time to fight for a decent contract—the summer season. They were able to divide and conquer," O'Donnell, giving his explanation for the Houston vote of 277 for the contract and 178 against.

Leaders of half of the 16 Teamsters locals involved appealed to the executive board of the International union to stop the second round of voting, arguing that the union constitution bars a second vote on a contract already rejected. The appeal was denied.

The proposed contract guts the union seniority system, increases the mandatory overtime demands, and allows the company to use more part-time and temporary workers while eliminating what they term "non-core" jobs in the production of beer.

Johnny Elizondo, a production worker in the brewery for 18 years, said, "[Owner August A.] Busch noted he would shut down Baldwinville, New York, and Merrimack, New Hampshire, if we went on strike, and would keep them open if we agreed with the contract. He's trying to put the blame on us if our brothers and sisters lose their jobs. But he'll shut them down anyway if he decides to, no matter what."

Elizondo emphasized the need for union solidarity despite the fact that the second contract passed in the plant. "There are guys here ready to retire who participated in the last strike in 1976. They voted against the contract and are ready to strike."

"Seeing Black, white, Latino, Puerto Rican, men and women GM workers standing together in the strike in Flint gave me a

lot of confidence. They didn't walk out; they ran out. You see someone stand up and fight," he added.

A worker with 10 years in the packaging department, who asked not to be named, explained why the contract finally passed here despite deep opposition. "We kept waiting to strike. We gave them the authorization in February, and then we voted 77 percent against it, now we've rejected it by 54 percent."

Workers here do not know what will happen next since the contract was voted down

nationally, but ratified in Houston.

O'Donnell said, "We can still hurt them with a strike together with a boycott by the AFL-CIO. This would make a difference."

Several workers said that as of August 1, the company is refusing to collect union dues through checkoff, and will implement portions of the rejected contract on grievances, arbitration, and other union-related matters.

Anheuser-Busch, the world's largest brewery, has made more than \$1 billion in profit in each of the past two years garnering 45 percent of the U.S. beer market.

Machinists reject contract at Northwest

Continued from front page

publicized, company spokesman Doug McKeen, Northwest Airlines, Vice President for Labor Relations, said "We are disappointed with the [IAM] District 143 results."

The company had tried to present a upbeat picture of its tentative contract offer. IAM officials had also campaigned for ratification, citing a 14 percent pay raise over four years and a "retro signing bonus" as highlights of an "industry leading" contract. But workers pointed out that after a decade of concessions to the airline, the wage raise and bonus offer amount to only 1.5 percent per year for the 10-year period between the last raise workers had in 1991 and the end of the four-year contract.

Proposed work rule changes also caused concern for many workers. These include the company's intent to continue to "farm out" work previously performed by union members, lack of layoff protection for some 1,500 workers hired after October 1996, and the company's plan to use part-time workers for up to 31 hours a week with no medical or other benefits, except five annual paid holidays.

Terry Tindall, 32, a machinist at Northwest's Atlanta maintenance base who has worked a year and a half for the company, told the *Militant*, "My biggest problem with the contract is that I wasn't protected from layoffs. I'm one of those hired after the deadline."

The Machinists vote means Northwest

will have to go back to the bargaining table with the union and reconsider its offer or face a potential strike.

Lewis Guy, an IAM member who has worked on the ramp at Washington National Airport for five years, said, "The tentative agreement was voted down because it benefited the company more than it benefited us. We've just sent a strong message to the company that their divide-and-conquer strategy did not work and nothing can separate us from our feelings against this contract. Now we have to give 100 percent support to the pilots if they strike because whatever the company does to the pilots they are going to do to us."

Guy was referring to the 6,200 pilots at Northwest organized in the Airline Pilots Association (ALPA) who, after two years of failed government-mediated negotiations with the company, began a 30-day "cooling off" period on July 29. At the end of the 30 days on August 29 the pilots would be free to strike.

Such constraints on the pilots' actions stem from the Federal Railway Labor Act, which acts to prolong contract negotiations for airline and railroad workers with endless government-mediated talks and then thwart workers' ability to strike. The governors of Minnesota and six other states are already lobbying publicly on behalf of Northwest Airlines for government intervention to stop a pilots strike. That was what President William Clinton did to shut down a strike by the American Airlines pilots

within minutes in February 1997.

Ten thousand flight attendants organized by the Teamsters union are also in a contract battle with Northwest. They have been fighting for a new contract for nearly two years and have called union support rallies at 10 airports on August 7, in Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Memphis, Minneapolis, New York, Seattle, and San Francisco.

Meanwhile, in a related development, the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA), a company-minded outfit that has for years attempted to split off mechanics and cleaners from the IAM, has stepped up its campaign against the Machinists union. AMFA declared on July 22 it has collected enough pro-AMFA signature cards from mechanics and cleaners at Northwest to ask the government National Labor Relations Board for an election to decertify the IAM.

The Atlanta maintenance base at Northwest where Terry Tindall works has been a center of AMFA's campaign. Commenting on this development to the *Militant*, Tindall said, "I feel AMFA is not looking out for our best interests. They're coming in hard now when we're negotiating a contract, trying to separate us. That left a bad taste in my mouth."

Mary Martin is a member of IAM Local 1759 at Northwest in Washington, D.C. IAM members Arlene Rubenstein and Mike Italie in Atlanta and Jeff Jones in Minneapolis contributed to this article.

Castro tour defies U.S. isolation attempts

Continued from front page

of most of its Caribbean neighbors, is moving towards entering the 15-nation trading bloc CARICOM (Caribbean Community) and has even been named an official observer in European Union negotiations to set up a trade pact between EU, Caribbean, Pacific, and 71 African nations.

Honoring those killed in U.S. invasion

Hundreds of people in Grenada came out of their houses to welcome the Cuban president, and show solidarity and appreciation for Cuba's role in helping to develop and defend that island. Castro received a 21-gun salute, and was greeted by Cabinet members and other dignitaries to the rhythm of a calypso interpretation of the Cuban song "Guantanamo."

Castro was present for the unveiling of a plaque to honor the Cuban internationalist construction workers killed in the 1983 U.S. invasion of the island. They had been in Grenada building a new airport — a major contribution to the country's economy — and defended themselves when attacked by the invading forces.

More than 5,000 Grenadians out of a population of 97,000 turned out to give a hero's send off to the Cuban leader at the end of his visit.

The big-business press tried to downplay the significance of Castro's tour of the Caribbean, taking the occasion to lie and slander Cuban internationalists and Grenadian revolutionists. The *New York Times* published an article August 3 by Larry Rohter that referred to Cuban construction workers and other personnel in Grenada in 1983. Rohter alleges that the Cuban workers "defied Castro's orders." He also asserts that those who weren't killed in the U.S. assault "eventually surrendered and returned to Havana in disgrace."

This is a blatant falsehood. The construction workers were viewed as heroes, and on Nov. 14, 1983, more than a million people turned out at the Plaza of the Revolution in Havana to honor and pay final respects to those killed during their internationalist mission in Grenada. Castro spoke at the rally proudly describing the actions of the Cuban workers and condemning Washington's invasion.

In March 1979 the Grenadian toilers, under the leadership of Maurice Bishop and the New Jewel Movement (NJM), toppled the hated dictatorship of Eric Gairy and re-

placed it with a workers and farmers government. This popular government from its earliest days received unconditional aid and collaboration from Cuba.

In 1983 a counterrevolutionary faction in the NJM led by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard succeeded in overthrowing the workers and farmers government, and placing Bishop on house arrest. A massive outpouring of nearly a third of the population followed. Troops loyal to Coard turned their guns on the protests. They assassinated Bishop and other revolutionary leaders, as well as killing and wounding many demonstrators. This betrayal stunned and demoralized the Grenadian people, opening the gates for Washington's "peacekeeping" forces to invade the island a few days later.

Refuting Washington's lies

Speaking at the rally in Cuba to honor the construction workers, Fidel Castro gave a point-by-point refutation of 19 lies perpetrated by Washington about the U.S. invasion of Grenada. These lies, which are echoed again today by writers like Rohter, include: that the airport was meant to be a military outpost for Cuba; that the construction workers were really professional soldiers; that Washington invaded to protect the lives of U.S. citizens; that Cuba was behind the coup that killed Bishop; that Cuba was planning to invade and occupy Grenada; and more.

Maurice Bishop himself, in an interview with the *Miami Herald* in 1983, said the idea that Cuba was building a base for Cuba military aircraft was "ludicrous." "There has never been any attempt on the part of any Cuban official, including Fidel Castro, to try to get us to do anything in return for the assistance we received.... On the contrary, I have found it is precisely those countries — the United States for example — that have cut economic assistance that are the ones that are making all the demands, putting on all the pressure."

The Cuban government's decision that the volunteers would stay and continue construction of the airport, even after Bishop's assassination and in face of clear preparations for an invasion by Washington, was part of those internationalists' commitment to the people of that struggle. They rejected the idea that Washington had any authority in the region whatsoever, no matter what internal conflicts existed on the island.

The overwhelming majority of Cuban personnel in Grenada at the time were civilians, nearly half of whom were older than 40. Others were children of diplomats. Like most Cubans, they had basic training with weapons, but at the time of the invasion these were not yet even distributed. Nor



Many Grenadians gathered at Point Salines International Airport August 2 to give a warm welcome to visiting Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro.

were there enough to go around. Only the Cuban construction workers had instructions from Havana to only engage the Yankee aggressors if attacked, and that is what they did.

But these workers — men and women of the Cuban revolution — did defend their ground. They continued construction as long as possible and gave the invading force a left hook that U.S. Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, who later commanded Washington's 1991 slaughter of the Iraqi people, had not expected.

What "started as a highly unconventional,

surgical in nature operation went sour right away... because of the assumption that the Cubans weren't going to fight," Schwarzkopf said in a 1991 interview with *New Republic* magazine. In an additional tribute of sorts, the reporter paraphrased Schwarzkopf as adding that the U.S. commanders hadn't expected resistance from Grenadians either, but "many of the gunners had been trained in Cuba; they were brave and highly disciplined; not only did they remain at their posts in the face of withering fire from U.S. helicopter gunships, they fired back."

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Why Are Coal Miners Being Denied Black Lung Benefits? Speaker: Jeanne FitzMaurice, Socialists Workers Party, member of United Steelworkers Local 1013. FitzMaurice is a former UMW member and underground miner. Fri., Aug. 14, 7:30 p.m. 111 21st St. South. Donation: \$4. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

OHIO

Cleveland

Eyewitness Report of the July 25 Pro-independence March in Guánica, Puerto Rico. Speaker: Moisés Cintrón, Cleveland chapter of the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners. Fri., Aug. 14, 7:30 p.m. 1832 Euclid Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Korea Is One! Speaker: Argiris Malapanis, staff writer for the *Militant* newspaper, who participated in the fact-finding delegation to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Fri., Aug. 14, 7:30 p.m. 59 4th Avenue (near Bergen). (Near the Atlantic and Pacific subway stops). Donation: \$5. Translation into Spanish. Tel: (718) 399-7257.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

The Socialist Alternative in the 1998 Mayoral Elections. Hear Communist League mayoral candidate Felicity Coggan. Sat., Aug. 15, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

—CALENDAR—

GEORGIA

Atlanta

31st Annual Meeting of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives Land Assistance Fund. August 14-15. Speaker on Fri., Aug. 14: Rev. Joseph Lowery. "Black farmers & Landowners: A continuing resource for the New Millennium." For more information, call (404) 524-6882.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Meet the Socialist Workers Candidates. Speakers: Al Duncan, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Governor of New York; Ruth Robinett, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Lt. Governor of New York; Rose Ana Berbeo, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate; Ryan Kelly, Socialist Workers Party candidate for State Comptroller; Wendy Lyons, Socialist Workers Party candidate for state Attorney General. Sat., Aug. 8, 7 p.m. Dinner 6 p.m. 59 fourth Ave. (corner of Bergen Street). By train take the 2, 3, D, or Q to Atlantic stop, or B, N, R, to Pacific stop on the subway. Donation: \$15 for dinner and program. \$10 program only. Tel: (718) 399-7257.

NEW ZEALAND

The United States blockade of Cuba and its consequences for the health system. The Cuba Friendship Societies invite you to hear María Luisa Fernández, Cuban Consul-General for Australia and New Zealand.

Wellington

Monday, August 24, 7pm. The upstairs meeting room, St Andrews on the Terrace. For more information, call: 384-8120.

Auckland

Tuesday, August 25, 7pm. Rationalist House, 64 Symonds St, central city (opposite Wakefield St). For more information, call: 9-525-5412.

Christchurch

Wednesday, August 26, 7:30pm. Aldersgate (Methodist hall), 309 Durham St. For more information, call: 3-381-1740.

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AUSTRALIA

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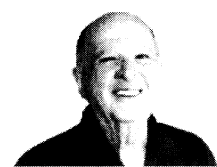
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Christchurch: 199 High St. Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 365-6055. Compuserve: 100250,1511

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. Compuserve: 100416,2362

Blue-chip choice — The target of a big-time Medicare fraud probe, Columbia Healthcare, the world's biggest hospital chain, has unloaded



Harry Ring

65 of its 309 hospitals and is buying back company stock to prop up the price. Also, they're planning to

change the name of the company.

Going bananas? — ABC television will paste 15 million promotion stickers on bananas. The company that drummed up the idea said it's becoming increasingly difficult to impact consumers and the banana labels should "cut through the clutter."

Pronto! — Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, Nebraska, dropped a course on "Supervising Hispanic Workers." Including some rudimentary Spanish, the four-hour how-to course was

offered to a string of Burger Kings in Nebraska and Iowa. It was scored by a local Spanish-language paper as reinforcing racist stereotypes and suggesting Latinos were not qualified to be managers.

Must be faulty research — Medical researchers in Britain studied 1,726 adults in England, Scotland, and Wales and found that unemployment and poverty often lead to anxiety and depression.

But not to worry — Several airlines — American, Continental,

Delta, TWA, USAir — spray passenger planes with insecticides. Considering the economy practice of recycling cabin air, it's a hazard for passengers and especially for the crew. Why the spraying? Strictly PR. It's not seemly for a passenger to see a roach scurry by.

No downsizing there — The CIA is conducting its biggest recruitment drive ever. Officials said its ranks have been shrunk by scandals, budget cuts and a high turnover rate since the demise of the cold war.

Britain's finest — Scotland Yard fired 44 corrupt or "bad" [?] cops last year, double the previous year's number. Nine more quit or retired while under investigation and 13 split before hearings got under way.

Love those cops — Blacks and Latinos bear the brunt of cop brutality, Human Rights Watch said in a report on 14 cities. "Police officers," the report said, "engage in unjustified shootings, severe beatings, fatal chokings and unnecessarily [?] rough physical treatment."

Bombing of Hiroshima: a capitalist death harvest

Fifty-three years ago, on August 6 and August 9, 1945, U.S. forces dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, incinerating hundreds of thousands of human beings. Socialist Workers Party national secretary James P. Cannon condemned this atrocity two weeks later at a meeting in New York commemorating the fifth anniversary of the assassination of Bolshevik leader Leon Trotsky. Below are excerpts of his remarks. The entire speech appears in *The Struggle for Socialism in the 'American Century'* — Writings and Speeches, 1945-47. The book is copyright © 1977 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted with permission.

BY JAMES P. CANNON

Surely the foundations are being laid for the peace of a thousand years. Capitalism in its death agony is dragging humanity down into the abyss. Capitalism is demonstrating itself every day more and more, in so-called

BOOK OF THE WEEK

peace as in war, as the enemy of the people. Bomb the people to death! Burn them to death with incendiary bombs! Break up their industries and starve them to death! And if that is not horrible enough, then blast them off the face of the earth with atomic bombs! That is the program of liberating capitalism....

In the *Times* today there is a report from the Tokyo radio about Nagasaki which states that "the center of the once thriving city has been turned into a vast devastation, with nothing left except rubble as far as the eye could see." Photographs showing the bomb damage appeared on the front page of the Japanese newspaper *Mainichi*. The report says: "One of these pictures revealed a tragic scene ten miles away from the center of the atomic air attack," where farm houses were either crushed down or the roofs torn asunder. The broadcast quoted a photographer of the Yamaha Photographic Institute, who had rushed to the city immediately after the bomb hit, as having said: "Nagasaki is now a dead city, all the areas being literally razed to the ground. Only a few buildings are left, standing conspicuously from the ashes." The photographer said that "the toll of the population was great and even the few survivors

have not escaped some kind of injury." So far the Japanese press has quoted only one survivor of Hiroshima.

In two calculated blows, with two atomic bombs, American imperialism killed or injured half a million human beings. The young and the old, the child in the cradle and the aged and infirm, the newly married, the well and the sick, men, women, and children — they all had to die in two blows because of a quarrel between the imperialists of Wall Street and a similar gang in Japan.

This is how American imperialism is bringing civilization to the Orient. What an unspeakable atrocity! What a shame has come to America, the America that once placed in New York harbor a Statue of Liberty enlightening the world. Now the world recoils in horror from her name. Even some of the preachers who blessed the war have been moved to protest. One said in an interview in the press: "America has lost her moral position." Her moral position? Yes. She lost that all right. That is true. And the imperialist monsters who threw the bombs know it. But look what they gained. They gained control of the boundless riches of the Orient. They gained the power to exploit and enslave hundreds of millions of people in the Far East. And that is what they went to war for — not for moral position, but for profit....

American imperialism has brought upon itself the fear and hatred of the whole world. American imperialism is regarded throughout the world today as the enemy of mankind. The First World War cost twelve million dead. Twelve million. The Second World War, within a quarter of a century, has already cost not less than thirty million dead; and there are not less than thirty million more to be starved to death before the results of the war are totaled up.

What a harvest of death capitalism has brought to the world! If the skulls of all of the victims could be brought together and piled into one pyramid, what a high mountain that would make. What a monument to the achievements of capitalism that would be, and how fitting a symbol of what capitalist imperialism really is. I believe it would lack only one thing to make it perfect. That would be a big electric sign on the pyramid of skulls, proclaiming the ironical promise of the Four Freedoms.¹ The dead at least are free from want and free from fear. But the survivors live in hunger and terror of the future.

Who won the war that cost over thirty million lives? Our cartoonist in *The Militant*,² with great artistic merit and insight, explained it in a few strokes of the pen when she drew that picture of the capitalist with the moneybags in his hands, standing on top of the world with one foot on the graveyard and the other on destroyed cities, with the caption: "The Only Victor." The only winner is American imperialism and its satellites in other countries.

What are the perspectives? How do our masters visualize the future after this great achievement of the six-year war?

Before the Second World War, with all its horror and destruction of human life and human culture, is formally ended, they are already thinking and planning for the third.

Don't we have to stop these madmen and take power out of their hands? Can we doubt

¹ U.S. president Franklin Roosevelt proclaimed the "Four Freedoms" as a goal of U.S. foreign policy in an address to Congress, Jan. 6, 1941. They were: freedom of speech and expression, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

² Laura Gray (1909-1958) was the *Militant's* regular cartoonist from 1944 until her death.



Militant cartoon by Laura Gray

Cartoon that ran on the front page of the Aug. 18, 1945, *Militant* under the headline: "There is no Peace! Only World Socialism Can Save Mankind From Atomic Destruction In Another Imperialist War."

that the peoples of all the world are thinking it cannot go much further, that there must be some way to change it? Long ago the revolutionary Marxists said that the alternative facing humanity was either socialism or a new barbarism, that capitalism threatens to go down in ruins and drag civilization with it. But in the light of what has been developed in this war and is projected for the future, I think we can say now that the alternative can be made even more precise: The alternative facing mankind is socialism or annihilation! It is a problem of whether capitalism is allowed to remain or whether the human race is to continue to survive on this planet.

We believe that the people of the world

will waken to this frightful alternative and act in time to save themselves. We believe that before American imperialism, the new master of the world, has time to consolidate its victories, it will be attacked from two sides and defeated. On the one side the peoples of the world, transformed into the colonial slaves of Wall Street, will rebel against the imperialist master, as the conquered provinces rose against imperial Rome. Simultaneously with that uprising, and coordinating our struggle with it, we, the Trotskyist party, will lead the workers and plebeians of America in a revolutionary attack against our main enemy and the main enemy of mankind, the imperialists of the United States.

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —



August 31, 1973

DELANO, California — Thousands of farm workers marched in the funeral procession here for a striking member of the United Farm Workers Union who died at the hands of a deputy sheriff. As the rites were conducted, plans were already under way for the funeral of a second striker — this one shot to death on a picket line.

Police officials who took a count from helicopters that hovered overhead, said 7,500 people joined in the funeral march behind the coffin of Nagi Daifullah, a 24-year-old immigrant Arab worker from Yemen who died Aug. 15 of compound skull fractures. Other reporters estimated there were 10,000 in the funeral march.

Because of the union-busting activity of local authorities, the UFW has demanded federal intervention. They are insisting that the Justice Department act in the killing of the two strikers and that the FBI take action to halt the violence and other infringement of civil rights. Jerry Cohen, chief counsel to the UFW, told reporters that he would demand a federal investigation into "the pattern of conduct by the sheriffs' departments in Kern, Tulare, and Fresno" counties. He said the local police were acting like "a private army of the growers."



August 23, 1948

Colonial revolts continue to sweep the Far East. Guerrilla bands roam throughout Malaya, disrupting communications and endangering British imperialist holdings.

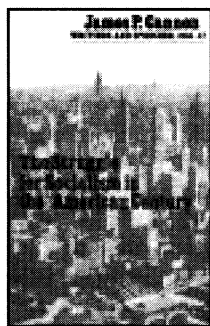
On Aug. 15, the United Press reported that four Chinese and one Malayan were hung without trial, under the government's emergency decree, for carrying arms. At the same time British difficulties are mounting in Burma. The present ruling coalition, known as the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League, is breaking up under the pressure of conflicting social groups and the premier, Thakin Nu, has resigned. The London *Economist* takes a dim view of the whole situation. "The political future of Burma is now overloaded with threats of further violent upheaval."

In Indo-China, the native Vietnam is winning the war to drive out the French imperialists. The fight is costing France 200 million dollars a year and pulling the French empire apart. The authoritative U.S. *News* and *World Report* sums up the situation in the Far East as follows: "Western powers, on their part, seem unable to get things right side up in Asia. All of them — Dutch, French, British, Americans — are in trouble."

From Pathfinder

The Struggle for Socialism in the "American Century"
Writings and Speeches, 1945-47
James P. Cannon

The challenges posed by the post-World War II labor upsurge, the rapid expansion of openings for the communist movement, and the subsequent ebb in face of the stabilization of U.S. capitalism and the employers' antilabor offensive and witch-hunt. \$22.95



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.

Gov't out of the Teamsters!

The U.S. government's interference in the Teamsters union has just taken one further, egregious step with the expulsion of the elected president, Ronald Carey, from the union by a court-appointed "Independent Review Board." This attack is a deadly threat to the Teamsters membership and the entire labor movement. Unionists should demand that all courts, "monitors," and federal boards keep their hands off the Teamsters.

Washington's intervention in the Teamsters has nothing to do with concern over corruption. The *last* thing the U.S. government wants is a democratic union controlled by the ranks.

This government and the two ruling parties, Democrats and Republicans alike, serve the billionaire owners of industry and agriculture, and they will do everything they can get away with to hamstring the labor movement. The employers always prefer a union officialdom that they can cut deals with behind the backs and at the expense of the union ranks. Thievery, bribes, threats — that's how the capitalists themselves operate anyway.

The latest government moves against the Teamsters began just days after the strike victory by 185,000 workers at United Parcel Service in August 1997. Bosses everywhere viewed the Teamsters' victory as a dangerous example for other working people. They put their courts and overseers to work, annulling the 1996 Teamsters elec-

tion and expelling union president Carey. The purpose: divert workers from their own power, tie their hands in red tape, and send a not-so-subtle warning that if workers act to defend their interests, Washington may intervene against the union and its leadership.

Teamsters members may feel a certain kinship with the Iraqi people these days when they hear about Washington — the same enemy of workers in the United States — demanding that United Nations "inspectors" have free rein to snoop around in Iraq, violating its sovereignty. In the name of "monitoring" weapons, Washington and Wall Street are trying to tell the Iraqi people — and anyone else who conflicts with them — who's boss. It's a reminder that the employers' attacks on workers and farmers abroad will be used against working people at home.

Both groupings in the Teamsters officialdom, those loyal to James Hoffa and Carey alike, play into the hands of the bosses by appealing for U.S. government intervention in order to further their own interests.

The union belongs to the union members alone. Only they should have the right to choose their leadership and to run their union affairs as they see fit. The only road to a democratic, accountable leadership is by workers mobilizing their own power to fight the employer class, and through that, transforming the unions into effective instruments of working-class struggle.

Support Native land rights

Working people should oppose the racist campaign being waged against the treaty accepted by leaders of the Nisga'a First Nation in British Columbia (B.C.) after years of fighting to win back their stolen lands and resources. The B.C. Liberals and the Reform Party, with the backing of much of the capitalist media, are demanding a referendum on the treaty in which every voter in British Columbia would get to decide on the future of the Nisga'a. They also claim that the treaty gives special "privileges" to Natives because it establishes a limited form of Indian self-government and recognizes limited Native fishing rights.

Far from enjoying privileges, Native people in British Columbia and throughout Canada have faced systematic oppression and discrimination since their lands were stolen by the British and French colonial rulers and many forced onto reservations. Since then Ottawa's Department of Indian Affairs has sought to maintain the racist subjugation of Natives, often through brutally violent means.

Today, while most Native people who continue to live on the land face extremely high levels of unemployment and deplorable living conditions, the majority of Indians have gone to the cities in search of jobs and access to better housing, health, education, and other services. However, there they face discrimination in hiring and housing, as well as racist cop brutality. While a significant proportion of Natives have won unionized jobs, including in the industrial unions, on average they are much more likely to be unemployed or among the lowest paid.

The oppression of Native people, Quebecois, other op-

pressed nationalities, immigrants from semi-colonial countries, and women is used by the ruling rich to drag down the wages and working conditions of the entire working class and undermine its collective capacity to fight back against the bosses and their governments. The racist campaign being waged against the Nisga'a is part of the cultural war led by rightist forces against the oppressed aimed at reversing gains they have won through decades of struggle and dividing and weakening the working class as a whole. They seek to foster resentment of the gains won by the oppressed portraying them as a threat to the jobs and rights of other workers.

The labor movement needs to join in support for the fight for the rights of Native people, explaining that Indian demands for land, fishing rights, and self-government are just and should be supported. The call for a province-wide referendum on the Nisga'a treaty should be rejected; Native people have the right to freely decide their own future.

At the same time labor should look to the example of those unions that have demanded affirmative action for Natives in hiring to fight against the systematic racist employment practices of the bosses. This could be combined with campaigning for jobs for all through the fight for 30-hours work for 40-hours pay and a massive public works program. It could provide decent housing, schools, health facilities that are needed, not only by Indians, but all working people. Most importantly, such a campaign would greatly strengthen the unity and fighting capacity of the entire working class.

Socialists in unions meet

Continued from Page 7

ing up with them. In the Washington, D.C. area, rail worker Stu Singer reported, Black farmers have been able to work together with members of the UFCW in some protests. James Harris, a rail worker from Atlanta, described the impact Black farm activists, most of them working farmers, had on the NAACP convention in Atlanta last month. He said that one of the main organizations of farmers who are Black, the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, is meeting in Epes, Alabama, August 14-15.

The joint sessions focused on a discussion of the need to redress the imbalance in the concentration of socialist workers in various unions. In Cleveland, Mike Fitzsimmons explained that during the last decade of retreat in the labor movement and in the SWP, there was a drift toward becoming a three-fraction movement. Well over 80 percent of socialists in industrial unions are in the UTU, USWA, and IAM. Special efforts, he said, will be necessary to rebuild the forces of worker-bolsheviks in the UMW, UNITE, and UFCW.

Fitzsimmons reported that several months of organized sales and discussions with coal miners in western Pennsylvania and West Virginia confirm that some hiring is going on in the coal mines. Fitzsimmons said that SWP and YS members in San Francisco and New York have taken some concrete steps to reestablish a fraction of socialist workers in the UFCW. Similar steps have to be taken in relation to UNITE.

In his summary to the meeting of OCAW activists, Britton stressed that getting more SWP and YS members

into UNITE and the UFCW, and working toward that goal in coal, is necessary to be part of a much broader layer of the working class.

Also at the joint sessions an appeal was made for monthly pledges to the Maritime Fund. This fund, set up five years ago, helps to make it financially possible for Tom Leonard, who lives on a meager Social Security payment, to be able to prepare material on his experiences and those of the party in the maritime industry in the 1940s and '50s.

As he has worked on this project, Leonard has followed and become involved in various elements of the unfolding working-class struggles. This project, which aims to deepen socialist workers' understanding of their movement's heritage, is converging with applying its lessons in the current battles. The fund helps finance travel for Leonard to national meetings and conferences, as well as equipping him with a computer, E-mail, and other tools he needs. The new pledges totaled \$555 a month, which added to the previous pledges brings the fund to over \$1,300 a month.

Separate presentations were made on the \$400,000 capital fund needed for Pathfinder's print shop to acquire computer-to-plate technology. So far more than \$235,000 has been pledged to the Fund.

Doug Jenness is a member of the United Steelworkers of America. Contributing to this article were: Elizabeth Stone (IAM), Maggie Trowe (UFCW), Alyson Kennedy (OCAW), Ted Leonard (UNITE), and Cindy Jacquith (UAW).

Socialist Workers settle disclosure fight in Seattle

BY DENNIS RICHTER

SEATTLE — The city of Seattle "shall take no further enforcement action of any kind against any of the SWC [Socialist Workers Campaign] parties regarding SWC's 1997 Seattle municipal campaign. In particular, the City parties understand that the SWC parties do not intend to disclose to the City the identity of any contributors to or vendors to the SWC 1997 campaign." So reads part of the July 15 settlement agreement between the Socialist Workers 1997 Campaign Committee and the city of Seattle.

"Our goal in this fight has been to protect the privacy of the contributors and vendors of the campaign," said Scott Breen, in announcing the decision. Breen, an assembly mechanic at the Boeing Company and a member of International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 751, was the Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Seattle in 1997 and is the Socialist Workers 1998 candidate for state senate from the 37th district in Seattle.

"We believe this agreement satisfies that goal, even though the Seattle Ethics and Election Commission's (SEEC) decision to deny us an exemption in 1997 still stands," said Breen. "Our next step will be to fight for an exemption from disclosure of contributors and vendors to our 1998 state campaign. Sometime in August, we expect to appear before the Washington state Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) to request an exemption from disclosing the names of contributors to our 1998 campaign for state senate." The settlement with the city includes an agreement by the Socialist Workers campaign to not file a lawsuit against the SEEC ruling, which denied the campaign the exemption it requested from disclosing the names of its contributors and vendors.

"We wish to thank all those supporters of democratic rights who made it possible for us to reach this stage in our disclosure exemption fight," Breen said. In addition to volunteers in the Seattle Committee to Defend Free Speech who helped to publicize the fight and raise funds for it, those supporters included dozens of unionists, democratic rights supporters, and organizations who wrote letters of support to the SEEC on the socialists' behalf. "We're asking supporters to write additional letters of support to the PDC now and to join us at the PDC hearing in Olympia when it is scheduled," said Breen.

"In addition to concluding the 1997 fight with our contributors' and vendors' rights protected," said Breen, "we succeeded in substantially lowering the fine for noncompliance that was levied against us by the city." That fine was lowered from \$6,040 to \$330.

The Socialist Workers are fielding two other candidates in the 1998 elections. Nan Bailey, an aerospace laminator and member of IAM Local 1103, is the party's candidate for U.S. Senate. Jeff Powers, a railroad worker and member of United Transportation Union Local 845, is the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the 7th Congressional District. For financial reporting requirements, their campaigns for federal office are under the jurisdiction of the Federal Elections Commission (FEC), not the state of Washington. In 1996 the FEC granted the Socialist Workers campaigns a six-year extension of a disclosure exemption. For local campaigns in both Washington state and the city of Seattle, however, the Socialist Workers campaigns are required to submit a request for exemption each and every time a new state or municipal campaign is announced.

This year it means appearing before the state PDC to request the exemption for Breen's campaign. There, the socialists will argue their case that an exemption from disclosing the names of contributors and vendors is necessary to protect free speech and the right to privacy and voluntary association of these contributors and vendors. The socialists will offer evidence that turning over these names would be like giving a ready-made list to police agencies and government institutions that have a history of harassment and intimidation of Socialist Workers campaigns and their supporters.

Richard Berley, who represented the socialists in their 1997 case against the city of Seattle as an ACLU cooperating attorney, has agreed to represent the Socialist Workers 1998 State Campaign in its request for an exemption this year from the PDC. For more information or to find out how you can help, contact the Socialist Workers 1998 State Campaign, 1405 E. Madison, Seattle, WA 98122, (206) 323-3429; E-mail: 74461.2544@compuserve.com

As we go to press

The Socialist Workers 1998 State Campaign received notice that King County election officials have denied ballot status to Scott Breen, Socialist Workers candidate for Washington State Senate, 37th Legislative District. The campaign submitted nominating petitions signed by 560 people, twice the legal requirement of 283 signatures, instead of paying a filing fee. Elections Superintendent Robert Bruce asserts that only 249 signatures were valid, 34 short of the requirement. The campaign is challenging the board's findings and urges letters of protest to be sent to: Robert Bruce, King County Records and Elections Division, 500 Fourth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104. Tel: (206) 296-1573. Fax: (206) 296-0108.

Tennessee truck strikers fight bosses and courts

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

NASHVILLE, Tennessee — More than 1,300 members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 1832 are entering their fourth month on strike at the Peterbilt truck

months!" On the issue of benefits for retirees, Bates added, "They're trying to separate us. It used to be whatever we got, they got." Bates said that he considered the use of strikebreakers to be a "scare tactic" by the company against the strikers.

Also from the picket line, Margaret Solomon said, "I don't mind striking for the right reasons and what we're striking for is the right reasons. If it's going to help these people retire and get out of here that's fine." Picket Terry Clem said there are some 200-300 workers at the Nashville plant who want to retire.

Strikers said the company is producing only about six trucks a day with the "replacement workers" and management personnel, compared to 54 before the strike.

ON THE PICKET LINE

assembly plant here. According to strikers, only three workers have crossed the picket line and two of those came back out and rejoined the strike.

The stakes in the strike, which began on May 3, were raised in mid-July when the company brought in "replacement workers" under a heavy police escort. The first day the company brought in these strikebreakers they were met at the main plant gate by more than 200 strikers. In response to a company request, a Davidson County Chancery Court judge put restrictions on union picketing.

Chancellor Ellen Hobbs Lyle ordered that the UAW may have only seven people picketing the main gate and three at additional gates. In addition, no more than 25 other striking workers can gather at each gate and they must stay 50 feet away. The judge also ruled that strikers cannot have mirrors at the picket line, which workers were using to disrupt company videotaping of the strikers.

Retiree benefits and pensions have become the key issues in the strike. Despite a record-breaking year in 1997, Peterbilt's owner, PACCAR, Inc., has refused to budge on the workers' appeal for a better life for retired Peterbilt workers.

According to a full-page ad by the UAW in the Nashville *Tennessee* newspaper, PACCAR posted a 50 percent increase in sales and a 71 percent increase in net income in 1997. PACCAR, which also makes Kenworth trucks, is the second-largest heavy truck manufacturer in the world. The company is refusing to negotiate with the UAW strikers.

Strikers' morale remains high and they are confident of victory. Striker Ricky Bates told *Militant* correspondents, "I've got six kids so you know how hard it is for me. I'll stay out for another two

Seattle port drivers join Teamsters union

SEATTLE — In a convoy of honking trailer-tractor rigs covered with Teamsters posters and balloons that grew as large as 70 trucks, port drivers slowly drove through downtown streets June 24 along the Port of Seattle and past the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe and Union Pacific intermodal yards. Convoy participants, most of whom own and operate their own trucks, distributed flyers that contained interest cards to drivers going in and out of piers and rail yards. Brochures, printed in English and Russian, urged owner-operators and drivers who haul containers between ship and rail to join the organizing campaign of Teamsters Local 174.

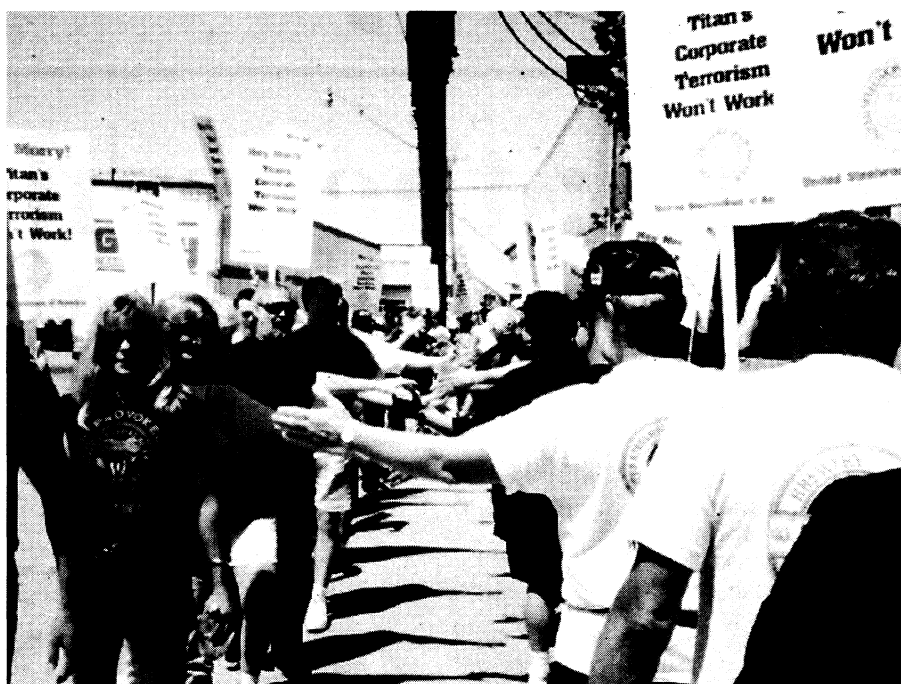
The convoy was greeted by many fists raised in the air, the waving of Teamsters and other union posters, and other signs of support from workers coming out of the piers, rail yards, restaurants, warehouses, offices, fabrication plants, and other worksites as it drove through this concentrated industrial area.

After the convoy started, Seattle police intervened aggressively, using patrol cars to block some trucks despite organized marshalling at intersections by the Teamsters. One Teamster driver was ticketed and at the wrap-up rally a collection was raised to help him pay it. Despite the intimidation, the visible, loud convoy completed its route.

The goal of the Teamster organizing campaign, according to a news release issued June 19, is to negotiate a master union agreement with trucking companies who work for the major shipping and rail lines at the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma. "In the past 15 years, most Teamster carriers have been driven off the Puget Sound waterfront," a Teamsters 174 flyer says. The current effort seeks to organize owner-operators and other nonunion drivers at the ports.

The Teamsters organized a smaller rally at the Port of Tacoma on July 1. Afterwards, some of the owner-operators leading the organizing effort talked to the *Militant*. The drivers explained that they are at the mercy of the trucking companies who lease their trucks, getting paid by the can moved rather than an hourly wage while they must pay for fuel, insurance, and the maintenance of their trucks. Owner-operators are considered "self-employed" and are not eligible for standard unemployment and health insurance benefits.

"I want everything on an even playing field," Ken Whitesel said, "I



Militant/Ray Parsons

Steelworkers on strike against Titan Tire in Des Moines greet supporters from other union locals on July 29 picket line at company offices in Quincy, Illinois.

want to get what everyone else does." Whitesel was fired by the trucking company that leased his truck. The company claimed his truck wasn't up to their standards. Ken Scott, an owner-operator for 12 years and member of the Teamsters organizing committee, showed a *Militant* correspondent a petition signed by other drivers protesting Whitesel's firing, pointing out that his truck was properly certified after passing all regulations.

Kevin Merriott is an owner-operator working for McMillanPiper, a company that leases 60 trucks. He works 70 hours a week. Much of that time is spent waiting. "I want to get paid for the time I sit," Kevin said. More than 1,000 owner-operators work in the Puget Sound. After expenses, many owner-operators barely make the minimum wage.

Health-care strikers win support in Rhode Island

CENTRAL FALLS, Rhode Island — Members of District 1199 Health Care Employees Union are winning support for their strike against Cartie's Health Center, one of the largest nursing homes in the state. The 185 union members walked off the job July 1 to fight company demands for an across-the-board 7.5 percent pay cut, unspecified changes in health-care coverage, and reductions in bonus pay. The health center is owned by Caruino Associates, a large real estate company in Rhode Island.

"If we go back we would have to take the pay cut and God knows what would happen after that," said Anne Marie Edouard, a nurse's aid with more than two years at Cartie's. "If we give up and go in we'll never earn our self respect. I'm not that cheap. So no matter how long it takes we'll be out here."

Sandra Goncalo, a housekeeping worker, added that the company "would get away with anything if

we ended the strike." Strikers say entry-level work starts at \$6 an hour; nurses earn between \$17 and \$18 an hour.

In a major attempt to break the union just prior to the strike the company orchestrated a petition to the labor relations board asserting that nurses should be considered supervisory personnel and be removed from the union, according to 1199 official Patrick Quinn. The company said nurses had the power to hire and fire. Despite union objection, the board ruled in favor of the company after the strike had begun and ordered the nurses out of the union. "This will have a domino effect if it is upheld," said Bob Monse, a nurse and union member on strike. "There are a lot of hospitals with contracts coming up around here with many nurses in the union."

Walter Lanoue, a janitor, said that members of the glass workers union from a Sylvania light bulb plant down the street have given donations and support on the picket lines, along with other unions in the area. The union has started a strike support fund and set up a food committee to assist families of strikers. "We're trying to take care of the people here, and the company wants to take everything back from us," Lanoue said.

Steelworkers rally to back Titan strikers

QUINCY, Illinois — Forty members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 164 from Des Moines, Iowa, joined forces with other unionists to protest at Titan International's home base here July 29. Since May 1, 670 Steelworkers have been on strike at Titan Tire in Des Moines in a fight against forced overtime, two-tier wages, and for pension and health benefits.

USWA members from Bridge-stone/Firestone tire plants in Des

Moines, and Bloomington and Decatur, Illinois, were part of the action. A warm welcome was given to five union fighters from Buda, Illinois, members of USWA Local 1113-11. The 31 members of their local have been on strike at Van Packer, a producer of industrial chimneys, since May 4.

Chants of "We demand a contract! We will win!" rang out as the crowd of 65 rallied outside the Titan wheel plant and corporate headquarters. Titan owner Maurice Taylor, Jr., was clearly disturbed to see Local 164's fight brought to Quincy. An injunction restricting the scope of the protest had been

obtained from a local judge ahead of time. A dozen city and state cops were called out. Taylor milled about as the rally took place, trying to upstage the unionists in interviews with radio and TV reporters that had come to cover the action.

Local 164 member Dave Strock spoke for the protesters declaring, "We are going to go one day longer. We will do what ever it takes!"

The same morning as the Quincy action, five Titan strikers were fired for so-called "strike misconduct."

On July 30 Local 164 scored a victory when Polk County District Court Judge Larry Eisenhower decided to not impose any penalties against the union after ruling against the local on contempt of court charges in early July.

On June 21 some 200 strikers and supporters had turned out to reject a company ultimatum ordering strikers to return to work or face replacement. Titan had charged Local 164 with violating court-ordered restrictions on picketing at the struck plant.

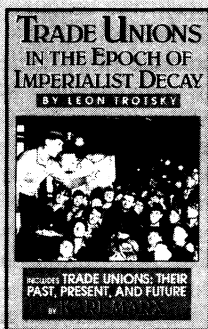
The USWA is launching a drive to unionize workers at the Titan wheel plant in Quincy.

Another showdown between the USWA and Titan is drawing closer in Natchez, Mississippi. Taylor is seeking to buy the Fidelity Tire plant there, but is demanding changes in the existing contract with USWA Local 303, including gutting seniority rights in the recall of laid-off workers. The unionists recently approved a strike authorization vote and held a rally August 2.

Rich Stuart, a member of the United Steelworkers of America, and Meg Novak in Birmingham, Alabama; Chris Rayson, a member of the UTU in Seattle; Greg McCartan, a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees in Boston; and Ray Parsons, a member of the USWA in Des Moines, contributed to this column.

From Pathfinder

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Leon Trotsky
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— LETTERS —

From our subscription mailbag:

I would like a subscription to the *Militant* and a Pathfinder catalog. The current state of the world has inspired my interest again. Please start my subscription as soon as possible.

J.R.
Morril, Ohio

Now that the "experts" on Wall Street have uttered the "D word" (world depression), the *Militant* has increased its value as currencies are plummeting. Fidel Castro predicted this in November 1997 — indeed Cuba is an example to the world that socialism is humanity's only option

for survival itself.

P.K.
Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota

I have one suggestion. We need to include a commitment to environmental consciousness and action in our struggle for socialism and real democracy. Without a dual focus, better yet an all-encompassing holistic focus, which includes a struggle against economic, racial, and environmental injustice, we as a movement may radically change economies in America only to find ourselves with such an environmental disaster that our efforts are made obsolete.

A.S.
Lansdale, Pennsylvania

Keep up the good fight. We need you.

D.G.
Detroit, Michigan

Appreciate your coverage of Cuba and the labor movement in the United States. Wish to see class analysis of the Middle East, particularly Iran.

K.N.
Oakland, California

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Australia: thousands protest ultrarightist One Nation party

BY BOB AIKEN

SYDNEY, Australia — As many as 10,000 high school students across Australia took part in a classroom walkout to protest racism July 24. Targeting ultrarightist politician Pauline Hanson's attacks on Aborigines and Asian immigrants, students in eight cities organized street marches, including one of around 2,000-3,000 in Sydney.

In Brisbane the high school action took place July 28, with more than 2,000 rallying with hundreds of Aborigines in a joint protest outside the first session of the newly elected Queensland Parliament.

Students as young as 12 skipped school to take part in the protests, which were called by Resistance, the youth group associated with the Democratic Socialist Party. A furor erupted over their right to protest.

David Oldfield, a key Hanson advisor, red-baited the students. "I sort of see it like we're almost fighting communism," Oldfield declared. He denounced "evil forces" at work "who uphold Castro's Cuba as ... a socialist workers' paradise."

One Nation Queensland Member of Parliament Shaun Nelson, a 25-year-old former soldier, denounced the young protesters as "being subjected to child abuse by communists, people we fought against in wars."

Pauline Hanson's One Nation party won 23 percent of the vote in the Queensland elections June 13, with 11 of its candidates elected to the 87-seat Parliament. Peter Beattie, the Australian Labor Party (ALP) leader in Queensland, subsequently formed a government with the backing of one Independent MP.

Buoyed by their success in the Queensland election, One Nation mouthpieces have also sharpened their attacks on Aborigines, immigrants, social welfare, "free trade," and "corruption" in politics.

Protests dog Hanson rallies

One Nation's gains have also sparked a renewal of the spirited protests that have dogged Hanson's rallies, particularly as she toured nationally July 12-22 to promote One Nation candidates in federal elections that Prime Minister John Howard may call soon.

Some 300 picketed Hanson's meeting in Perth, Western Australia, July 12. Small country towns like Kiama, in New South Wales, and Sale, in Victoria, saw protests of several hundred. Hanson canceled a Melbourne speech July 19 as 2,000 protested outside. About 3,000 people, led by hundreds of high school students, rallied in Bendigo, a country town in Victoria, July 21, forcing Hanson to cancel a "meet-the-people" walk through the town center. Some 200 protesters, most of them Aboriginal, were attacked by police at Hanson's July 22 meeting in Echuca, a small town on the Victoria-New South Wales border.

"It's been very emotional for me to see these young Aboriginal people having to



Mark Smith

Some 3,000 people protested the racist policies of ultrarightist Pauline Hanson August 1. The Sydney demonstration was endorsed by labor and student organizations.

stand up for themselves like this," Elizabeth Hoffman, an elder of the local Yorta Yorta people, said after the Echuca protest. "To me it's very sad to see people who are our friends and neighbors and people we do business with, going to this meeting with that woman [Hanson]."

Around 3,000 marched in Sydney August 1 in a protest against racism endorsed by the New South Wales Labor Council, the district branch of the Maritime Union of Australia, the National Union of Students, and Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, and Filipino community organizations.

The anger of protesters has been focused on a series of reactionary probes that Hanson has made in recent weeks as she moves to carve out new space in national politics.

Hanson has campaigned against any kind of affirmative action for Aborigines despite Aboriginal unemployment being four times the national average and infant mortality five times higher. Aboriginal families are 16 times more likely than the general population to be homeless.

During her national tour, Hanson called for a new inquiry into the government's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, denouncing it as "a corrupt organization run by an Aboriginal Mafia." ATSIC channels government grants for a wide range of programs, including in health, housing, education, training, and "work-for-the-dole" schemes.

One of the first acts of the Howard government was to carry out a much-publicized audit of ATSIC-funded organizations. Despite finding few irregularities, it reduced ATSIC's budget and financial powers.

Attack on Aboriginal rights

In a speech in Adelaide July 14, Hanson also launched a broadside against the 1967 referendum in which more than 90 percent in every state of Australia voted to recognize Aborigines as equal citizens. "If Australians knew today what was foreshadowed for them, they would have thought twice about casting that vote," she declared. "The pendulum has gone too far the other way."

Attacks on single mothers featured in Hanson's speeches, as she declared that she would "really come down" on single mothers on welfare who had another child.

When 16-year-old Kelly MacDonald, baby in arms, confronted Hanson over these statements during a "meet-the-people" walk in Sale, Victoria, July 20, Hanson lectured her that, "You have to be responsible for your own body.... You can't expect the taxpayer to fund bringing more children into the world." MacDonald was unimpressed.

One Nation's policy on immigration, released July 1 at a Canberra press conference by Hanson and One Nation's Victorian convener Robyn Spencer, a former leader of Australians Against Further Immigration, calls for zero net immigration. As well, refugees would be deported once "the danger is resolved," Spencer said.

Family reunion would be restricted to countries with "adequate transferable social security," the policy states, and immigration "must not significantly alter the ethnic and cultural make-up of the country."

After Hanson's July 19 speech in Melbourne was canceled on the advice of police, Spencer declared that the cops should have used pepper spray and water cannon to disperse the protesters.

Spencer railed, "One wonders who now controls our police force. Is it Labor? After all, the force is now heavily unionized. Or do they conform to political direction from another side?" One Nation has made big inroads into support for the conservative Lib-

eral-National coalition but is also targeting seats held by the ALP.

In face of One Nation's electoral gains in Queensland and their fear that this would be repeated nationally, Howard and Independent Sen. Brian Harradine made a deal on the Native Title Amendment Bill, which passed the Senate July 8. Harradine, who initially voted with the ALP and the minor capitalist parties to block the legislation in December 1997, admitted that he "blinked" at Howard's threat to call an election over the issue. For his part, Howard fears that his legislation, dubbed the "10-point plan," which guts newly won recognition of limited Aboriginal land title on pastoral leases, has been outflanked to the right by what Hanson describes as her "one-point plan: abolish native title." Extensive cattle and sheep grazing and mining activity takes place on pastoral leases, issued by state governments, which cover 40 percent of the Australian continent. One Nation's electoral successes and the Senate's approval of the "10-point plan" may mean an early federal election is less likely.

While capitalist farmers and graziers and mining companies were part of the discussions on the deal, no Aboriginal representatives were consulted this time nor even informed of the deal before it was announced. Noel Pearson, a prominent Aboriginal negotiator, declared that Blacks were left "out on the woodheap."

In a fight that combines opposition to uranium mining and support for Aboriginal land rights, hundreds have traveled to the remote protest camp at Jabiluka—some 155 miles east of Darwin—since March 23. The campaign aims to stop the construction of a second uranium mine on Aboriginal land in Kakadu National Park.

Northern Territory police have made a total of 380 arrests to date, including Yvonne Margarula, the senior traditional owner of Jabiluka. Protesters who have been charged with "criminal damage" face jail under the Northern Territory's draconian mandatory sentencing laws, which set out 14 days' imprisonment for a first offense.

Bob Aiken is a member of the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union.

N. Ireland: rightist Apprentice Boys forced to reroute march

BY TONY HUNT

LONDON — The weakening of the props of British colonial rule in Northern Ireland was highlighted August 3 when one of the sectarian "loyal orders," the Apprentice Boys, concluded an agreement in Derry with the Bogside Residents' Group (BRG). Every year the Apprentice Boys organize a triumphalist march along the walls of the Bogside, a nationalist area in the city center, aimed at intimidating those who live there. The agreement will result in significant changes to the route of the Apprentice Boys Parade on the afternoon of August 8.

At the same time the British government's Parades Commission banned so-called "feeder parades" the same weekend by the Apprentice Boys down the nationalist Lower Ormeau road in Belfast and through the village of Dunloy. Sectarian marches through the villages of Bellaghy by the Apprentice Boys and through Roslea by the Royal Black Preceptory, another "loyal order," have been rerouted. In return, the BRG agreed to lift objections to a morning parade by the Apprentice Boys along the Derry City Walls, so long as certain restrictions were observed, and to a parade to the city's war memorial. A protest planned by the resident group has now been canceled.

BRG leader Donncha Mac Niallais told the *Militant* he was "pleased" with the agreement and the fact that "feeder parades will not be forced through." It was a "step forward by the Apprentice Boys," he told the BBC.

Mac Niallais pointed to the progress that has been made over the past few years. In 1995 the Apprentice Boys refused to talk to the Mayor of Derry, he said. That year residents mounted a sit-down protest on the city walls to block the sectarian marchers and were forcibly removed by the Royal Ulster Constabulary police force. Meanwhile, a sit-down protest by residents of the Lower Ormeau Road in Belfast was brutally attacked by the cops.

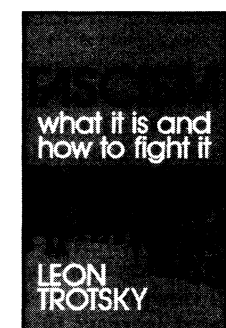
This year the Apprentice Boys decided to resolve the issue "through dialogue," Mac Niallais explained. Although they refused to meet the BRG directly, the loyalists engaged in negotiations through an intermediary. This was different to the Orange Order on the Garvaghy Road, in Portadown, Mac Niallais said. The negotiations had shown that the Apprentice Boys were having to accept "nationalists as equals and give people the respect they are due." He hoped that a further process of dialogue would begin in the coming months.

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